

NEED UNITED GLOBAL FRONT AGAINST TERROR, MODI TELLS U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PM address is his India story

‘India has given world Buddh, not Yuddh... countries can’t confine themselves within boundaries’



EXPRESS IN U.S.

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 27

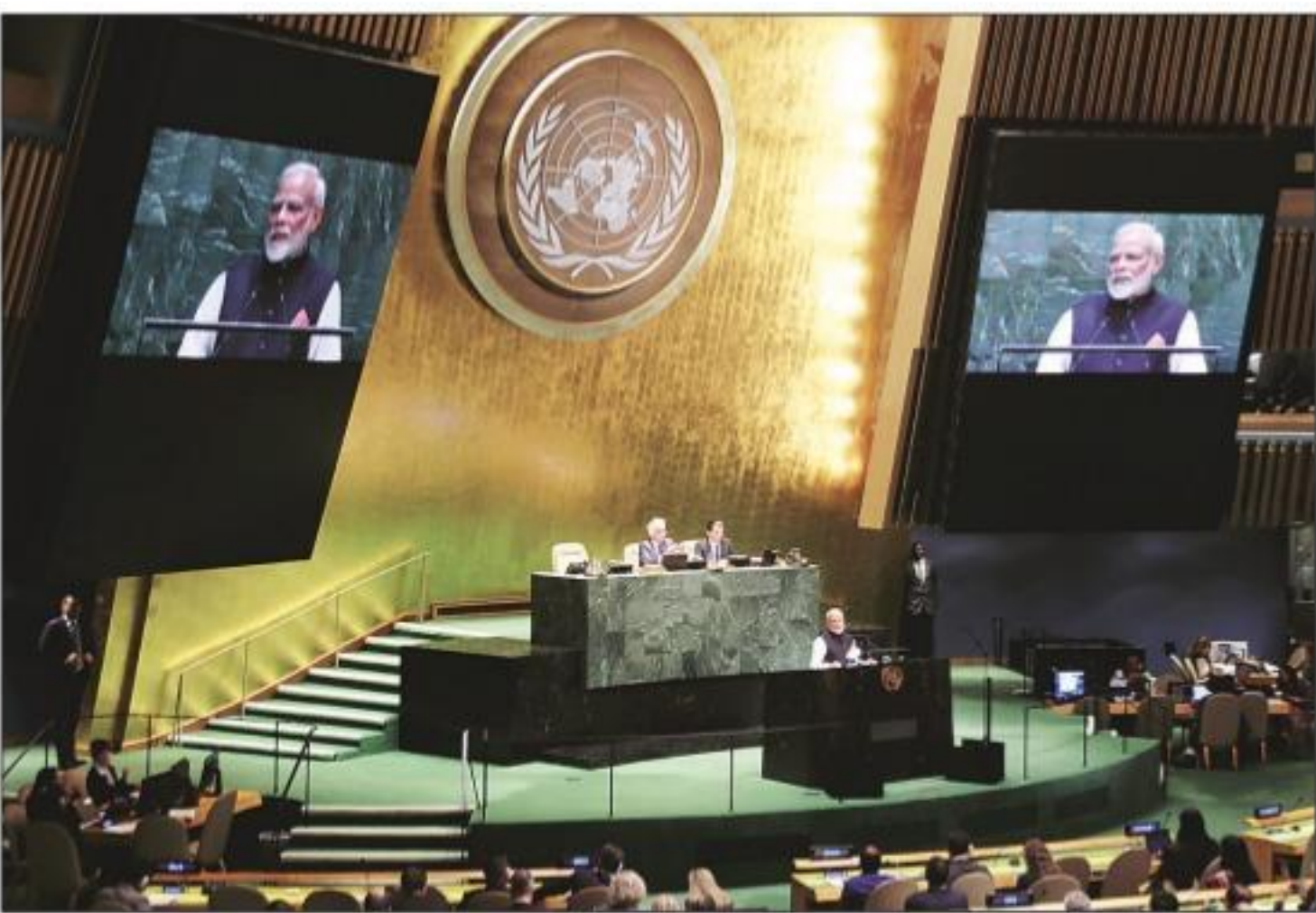
MAKING THE social programmes of his government and its governance the centrepiece of his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday said India’s achievements on sanitation, health insurance, bank accounts, digital identification are an “inspiration to the entire world”, especially “those countries striving for development, each in their own way”.

While much of his address was devoted to India’s ambitious targets — from conservation of water and its availability in 150 million homes to 20 million houses for the poor, elimination of single-use plastic to eradication of tuberculosis five years ahead of the 2030 global target — the Prime Minister, without naming Pakistan, described terrorism as one of the biggest challenges for not just India but the

EXPLAINED
E.
Flags his govt’s flagship plans

MUCH OF the Prime Minister’s address at the UNGA was devoted to the strides India is making at home, be it the campaign against single-use plastic or Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and globally, as a lead player in solar and renewable energy. Pushing for multilateralism, Modi also highlighted India’s contribution in peacekeeping and combating climate change.

entire world, and said the international community must stand united against terror. Speaking in Hindi, Modi said: “Hum uss desh ke waasi hain jisme duniya ko yuddh nahin, Buddh diya hai, shanti ka sandesh diya hai (We belong to a country which has given the world not war but



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Friday. PTI

Buddha, and the message of peace).” He said if there’s any country that has made the biggest sacrifice in UN peacekeeping missions, it is India.

Pointing to lack of unanimity on the issue of terrorism, he said: “We believe that this is one of the biggest challenges, not for any

single country, but for the entire world and humanity. The lack of unanimity amongst us on the issue of terrorism dents those very principles that are the basis for the creation of the UN.”

Invoking Tamil philosopher Kaniyan Pungundranar and Swami Vivekananda to seek col-

lective action against global challenges, he said harmony and peace is the message of the world’s largest democracy to the rest of the world. “About 3,000 years ago, a great poet of India, whose name was Kaniyan Pungundranar, wrote in Tamil, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Pak, China raise Kashmir, Imran drops n-threat again

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 27

REITERATING HIS nuclear threat, Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan used the United Nations platform Friday to criticise India and warned of a “bloodbath” in Kashmir.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi too raised the issue of Kashmir and said it should be resolved as per UNSC resolutions and bilateral agreements. Speaking at the UNGA, Wang said that “no actions that would unilaterally change the status quo should be taken”.

Addressing the UN General Assembly for the first time, Khan spoke for about 50 minutes and repeated many of his remarks made in speeches earlier, including at Muzaffarabad and addresses and statements at various US think-tanks this week.

During his speech, the Indian delegation led by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was not present. They left immediately **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

KARNATAKA PROBE FINDS

Seer’s phone was tapped by passing him off as smuggler

Vokkaliga leader courted by Shah, police bid to escape legal ‘scrutiny’

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 27

THE INVESTIGATION into the alleged illegal tapping of phones of politicians, their aides, bureaucrats and other officials during the tenure of former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy has revealed that police officers intercepted some numbers illegally by linking them to unrelated criminal investigations to escape detection during legal scrutiny.

Sources said one example that has come to the fore in the investigation handed over to the CBI by the BJP government in Karnataka is the alleged tapping of the phone of Nirmalananda Swami, an influential seer of the dominant Vokkaliga community.

Sources said the probe has found that the seer’s phone was intercepted by misrepresenting his identity. A police officer at the technical cell generated a report for the tapping of Nirmalananda Swami’s telephone by slipping in his name and number in a list of suspects in a red sanders smuggling ring.

Based on the report from this officer at the technical cell, senior officers of the Bengaluru



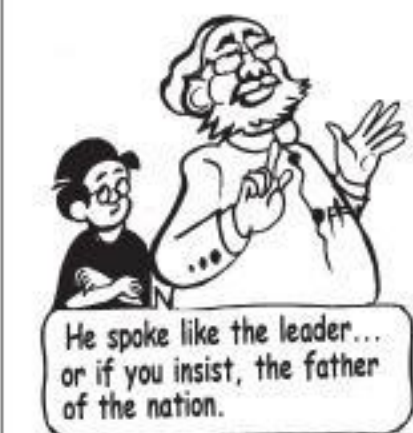
Vokkaliga seer Nirmalananda Swami

police and officials in the home department are reported to have sanctioned tapping of the phone of the seer.

Sources said directions for incorporating the seer’s phone among those to be intercepted was received from higher officials although it has been shown on record as having been generated at the level of a police inspector.

On Thursday, the CBI searched the home and offices of former Bengaluru police commissioner Alok Kumar, an officer of the rank of additional director general of police, during whose tenure in Bengaluru much of the illegal tapping of phones is alleged to have occurred. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



WORLD



EGYPT IN TURMOIL, OVER 2,000 PEOPLE ARRESTED AMID CALL FOR PROTESTS
PAGE 17



STARTING TODAY, the Explained page will also appear every Saturday in addition to Monday-Friday. The Books page will now appear in *The Sunday Express*.

Sena: Pawar a leader of standing, ED has made bank case political

PRADEEP KAUSHAL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

COMING OUT in defence of rival NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena’s parliamentary party leader Sanjay Raut, a BJP ally, Friday questioned the alleged money-laundering case against “a senior leader with a certain standing”, and said it has only given fresh lease of life to the NCP on the eve of the assembly elections in Maharashtra.

Raut said the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case against Pawar is generating sympathy for him and galvanising the cadre of a party on the decline. The case, he said, had acquired political colour, and those familiar with Pawar’s capabilities and the politics of Maharashtra can



Sharad Pawar with NCP workers outside his Mumbai residence Friday. Prashant Nadkar

figure how the matter is going to play out.

“I would say, for no reason, the investigating agency has made the case political,” Raut said. The ED booked Pawar, his

nephew Ajit Pawar, and several other state leaders in connection with an alleged scam in the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB). **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

INX Media net widens: Ex-Niti CEO among 4 to be prosecuted

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE CBI has been granted sanction by the government to prosecute four former officials of the Finance Ministry, including Sindhushree Khullar who went on to become CEO of Niti Aayog, in the INX Media case in which former Finance Minister P Chidambaram is already in judicial custody.

The sanction was granted a

month after Khullar was confronted with Chidambaram who was then in CBI custody. A 1975-batch IAS officer from the Union Territory cadre, Khullar was Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry when developments related to the INX Media allegedly took place, CBI sources claimed. She was Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) between 2004 and 2008. In 2015, she was appointed Niti Aayog CEO.

Others to be prosecuted are

Anup K Pujari, former Secretary of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Prabodh Saxena, former Director in the Finance Ministry; and, Rabindra Prasad, former Under Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs.

In his defence, Chidambaram had said all decisions of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) were taken by the board and the Ministry officials concerned. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

After 2 Dalit kids killed, Govt says no ODF coercion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

DAYS AFTER two Dalit children were allegedly beaten to death for defecating in the open in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh, the Jal Shakti Ministry Friday cited the incident to issue an advisory to all states that “no coercion should be used to ensure ODF in any area” in the country.

On Wednesday, the MP police arrested two brothers for killing two Dalit children, a 10-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, in Bhavkhedi village.

The boy’s father Manoj Valmiki, told police that the brothers objected to the two children defecating in the open near their house and beat them to death with sticks. Incidentally, the village had been declared open defecation free on April 4, 2018.

In the advisory to all Chief Secretaries, the Jal Shakti Ministry said: “As you are aware, positive behaviour change for adoption of safe sanitation practices as well as ensuring that no **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

NEGOTIATING TERMS TO JOIN RCEP
By V S SESHADRI
PAGE 12

To push digital, official proposes mandatory QR code for merchants

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

A SENIOR official of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has proposed that it should be made mandatory for merchants to have a QR code to more aggressively push digital payments nationwide.

“We need interoperable QRs in every place. I seriously feel that if you are big turnover person, you have to mandatorily

provide a digital payment option. You can’t say I have nothing, I deal only with cash,” Joint Secretary Gopalakrishnan S said at the Data Security Council of India summit in Delhi.

Gopalakrishnan oversees the data protection Bill drafting process, the ministry’s interactions with foreign companies, and digital payments.

There are 7 crore merchants and only 40 lakh POS (Point of sale machines that accept digital payments) machines in the

country, he said. And that because the government will not be able to fund POS machines to every merchant, a mandatory QR code is the best next step after the spread of bank accounts through Jan Dhan Yojana.

A user can scan a merchant’s QR code and get automatically directed to pay the merchant on their phone through a payment app.

“Somewhere down the line, just like what we did with Jan **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

IITs show the tenure track way: Asst. Prof to be promoted after 5 yrs and an appraisal

This will replace current one-year probation, Central univs may be next

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE COUNTRY’S premier engineering institutes have paved the way for the nationwide adoption of the tenure track system.

The 23 IITs on Friday agreed to grant tenure to assistant

professors five years after their recruitment. The proposal was also approved by the Council of the 31 NITs this week.

The decision marks a significant shift from the current practice across most centrally-funded educational institutions where fresh faculty recruits are given permanent appointments as assistant professors after a year. They cannot be terminated after that.

Under the tenure track system, an assistant professor is

OTHER KEY DECISIONS: COURSE TO FINANCE

- Entrepreneurship as optional undergrad paper
- Joint PhD among IITs
- PPP in construction and maintenance of IIT hostels
- International students, including OCI cardholders, will be able to sit for JEE (Advanced) directly.

hired on a five-year contract. Her performance is first reviewed internally three years from the date of joining and then an external committee after five-and-half years. Depending on the evaluation, the assistant professor will either be granted tenure (and associate professorship) or asked to leave.

Except for a few institutions (such as the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore and older IIMs including IIM-Bangalore and IIM-Ahmedabad), all centrally-funded universities and a majority of the Institutes of National Importance (INIs) **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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WEB
EXCLUSIVE

IN KERALA'S PALA, LEFT-BACKED CANDIDATE BREACHES UDF FORTRESS AFTER 54 YRS

Ending the five-decade-old supremacy of the Kerala Congress (M) in the Pala Assembly constituency in central Kerala, Mani C Kappan, nominated by the ruling LDF, clinched a close victory over his UDF-backed opponent Jose Tom on Friday

VIDEO OF THE DAY



FLIPKART'S LAST-MILE WISHMASTERS

Hub in Siliguri, at least 90 minutes away from the hilltops

FULL COVERAGE



LIVE COVERAGE: BY-ELECTION RESULTS

Counting of votes for the Assembly bypolls held on September 23

EXPRESS AUDIO
Should car rallies be banned in India after the Barmer tragedy?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In this episode of Express Sports's podcast, we look at the questions that the Barmer car rally raises and talk about whether the sport is too dangerous to be held in India

Pak stops postal exchange with India

DIVYA GOYAL
LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 27

AMID THE ongoing tension between India and Pakistan following the scrapping of special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370, Islamabad has now stopped exchange of postal mail between the two countries.

People in Punjab have stopped receiving regular mail such as magazines, publications, and even letters which they used to get regularly earlier from Pakistan.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ajay Kumar Roy, the deputy director general, Department of Posts, confirmed that the written orders to stop mails via post were issued by the customs department of Pakistan on August 23.

"On August 23, the customs department of Pakistan issued written orders to stop exchange of mails between the two countries. The orders said that it is for both export as well as import of mails via post which means they will neither send the post to Indian side nor will they accept any from us. The orders came into effect on August 27," Roy said.

Roy said this was an unilateral decision by Pakistan as before the written orders, mails were being exchanged normally via air. "We exchange mail posts with Pakistan via the air route of Saudi Arabia Airlines. It was going on normally before their customs department issued these orders. It hasn't been done from our side..." he added.

Among the casualties, 'Punjab Dey Rang'

Following the latest move by Pakistan, the cultural and literary exchange between east and west Punjab has become a casualty.

Counter-intelligence top cop says one more drone recovered in Punjab

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
RAJOKE (TARN TARAN),
SEPTEMBER 27

A SENIOR Punjab Police official Friday claimed to have recovered another Pakistani drone, which was used to airdrop arms and ammunition in border areas of Punjab but had "crash-landed" in Muhawa village near the border in Amritsar district.

DSP (counter-intelligence) Balbir Singh, said that the drones from Pakistan breached the Punjab border in at least three villages to drop weapons.

Punjab Police earlier had claimed to have recovered a half-burnt drone from Rajoke village in Tarn Taran. The Rajoke village was Friday visited by BSF Director General V K Johari. BSF claimed that Johari's visit to Rajoke was not in connection with the recovery of drones.

DSP Singh said the damaged drone was recovered Friday based on the information given by Akashdeep, one of the four people the state police arrested on Sunday. They are allegedly part of a terror module of the Khalistan Tindabad Force (KZF). Akashdeep accompanied the team to the site.

"Akashdeep had admitted that one drone was burnt in Chhabal town while the other was kept hidden at Muhawa village. This drone could carry five to six kg weight and had a wing span of five feet," the DSP said. Meanwhile, a Punjab Police

"*Punjab Dey Rang*", a magazine published in Gurmukhi script of Punjabi from Lahore every quarter, has stopped reaching readers in India, especially Punjab. The publication is considered rare on the Indian side as there is hardly any other work being published in Gurmukhi script in Pakistan, where Shahmukhi script is largely used.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* over phone, Ihsan H Nadiem, chief editor of Punjab Dey Rang (also called Rasaala in local language), said that they recently dispatched 70 copies of the magazine to their readers in India but all were returned by Pakistan postal department.

"We were informed by the postal department that exchange of mails with India has been stopped. We had been sending the magazine in Gurmukhi script to the Indian readers (mostly in Punjab) since 2010 and never before had such a thing happened. This is the first time. It is also the saddest because as it has come at a time when we are celebrating 550th birth anniversary year of Guru Nanak Dev ji," he said.

Nadiem added that Dyal Singh Research and Cultural Forum (DSRCF) has been publishing this magazine since 2006 in English and Punjabi. "The Punjabis settled in India, Pakistan, Canada, US, UK and other countries regularly contribute to it. They share their pre-ing on normally before their customs department issued these orders. It hasn't been done from our side..." he added.

spokesperson late in the evening "clarified" that so far, only two drones have been recovered, including one last month from Muhawa village and the second in a burnt condition this week from Chhabal town in Tarn Taran.

The spokesperson neither confirmed nor denied the claims of DSP Balbir Singh, who led a counter-intelligence team that raided Muhawa village and "recovered" the second drone. Local police had no clue about the raid conducted by the DSP.

The DSP said the drone was damaged and could not fly back to Pakistan. He told *The Indian Express*, "This drone is different from the one used in Rajoke. One more drone was reported flying over village Bhusse near the border. So far, we have come to know about total nine flights by these drones in three villages — Rajoke and Muhawa and Bhusse. These nine flights were conducted over five days."

"There is a drain in Rajoke where most of the drones landed with weapons. All five AK-47 rifles and grenades were dropped at Rajoke. Two pistols were dropped here (Muhawa) and a third in Bhusse."

Balbir Singh said the drones were GPS-enabled and "dropped the weapons from a height of 200 metres". He said these drones can fly at a height of 800-900 metres. "The drone recovered today is of no particular brand. It is more of an assembled piece with parts that can be procured online," he said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Pak, China

after Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended his address earlier.

A few Indian diplomats at the Permanent Mission at the UN were, however, present during Khan's speech, who spoke 30 minutes after Modi. India is expected to exercise its right to reply.

"There are 900,000 troops there, they haven't come, as Narendra Modi says, for the prosperity of Kashmir... These 900,000 troops, what are they going to do? When they come out, there will be a bloodbath," Khan told the UNGA in New York.

He added that there could be a repeat of the fighting between the nuclear-armed neighbours seen in February if India blamed Pakistan for any terrorist attack. He said: "If a conventional war starts between the two countries, anything could happen. But supposing a country seven times smaller than its neighbour is faced with the choice: either you surrender, or you fight for your freedom till death?"

"What will we do? I ask myself these questions. We will fight... and when a nuclear-armed country fights to the end, it will have consequences far beyond the borders."

During his speech, he once mistakenly called Narendra Modi India's President. He also said that Pakistan had decided to "dismantle what was left of these terrorist groups", and asked the UN to send observers.

Khan spent a substantial amount of time explaining how there is nothing called "radical Islam". "There is only Islam," he said. He also attacked the RSS and said Prime Minister Modi is a life member of the organisation. He also expressed concern at the plight of Kashmiris in India and about the possibility of radicalisation of Indian Muslims and some of 1.3 billion Muslims worldwide, who, he said "are watching" the situation in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the US has asked Pakistan why it is only bothered about the human rights of Muslims in Kashmir and is not highlighting the "horrific conditions" that continue to exist for the members of the community throughout China.

Alice Wells, US Acting Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia, during a special briefing at the UNGA, criticised Khan for not speaking out against China, which has detained an estimated one million Uyghurs and other Turkic-speaking Muslims in Xinjiang province.

"I would like to see the same level of concern expressed also about Muslims who are being detained in Western China, literally in concentration-like conditions. And so being concerned about the human rights of Muslims does extend more broadly than Kashmir, and you've seen the administration very involved here during the UN General Assembly and trying to shine a light on the horrific conditions that continue to exist for Muslims throughout China," Wells said.

Shiv Sena

Pawar's name, he said, did not find mention in the complaint on which the Bombay High Court had acted. Just because some of his aides were involved, he was being called the kingpin, Raut said, adding that as far as co-operative banks go, members of all parties have association.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JODHPUR, SEPTEMBER 27

ACTOR SALMAN Khan on Friday skipped a hearing in a Jodhpur court in connection with the blackbuck poaching case that goes back two decades.

which is the most ancient language of the world: "Yaadhum Oore Yaavarum Kelir". This means, we belong to all places, and we belong to everyone. And this is something that was said 3,000 years ago. This sense of belonging beyond borders is unique to India."

He urged the international community to give a new direction to multilateralism. He said as the world is going through a new era, the countries do not have the option to confine themselves within their boundaries. "A divided world is in no one's interest. We must give a thrust to multilateralism and reforming the United Nations."

Kumar was brought in as the Bengaluru Police Commissioner in June 2019 when Janata Dal Secular leader H D Kumaraswamy was Chief Minister despite Kumar being the juniormost officer of the rank of ADGP. He was earlier the Additional Commissioner of police (crime) for Bengaluru.

Incidentally, the Bengaluru police commissionerate is one of five top police units in Karnataka authorised to conduct telephone tapping for seven days with reference to specific criminal cases. For carrying out interceptions for longer periods, police have to obtain clearances from the Home Secretary as per provisions for legal tapping of phone calls laid out in Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with Rule 419 A of Indian Telegraph

Raut said the Shiv Sena has rivalry with Pawar and his party: "Since the time of Balasaheb Thackeray, we have been criticising him, contesting elections against him, sometimes winning, sometimes losing. However, in Maharashtra's political culture, whenever anything wrong happens, we stand by one another. When (MNS chief) Raj Thackeray was questioned by the ED (in another alleged money-laundering case), Uddhavji (Thackeray) came out in his support."

He said even Anna Hazare, who has taken on Pawar several times in the past, has stated that Pawar had no role in the bank scam.

Dalit children

one is left behind, are key to achieve the goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission."

Signed by Additional Secretary Arun Baroka, the advisory said, "However, some recent media reports have been brought to the notice of this department which are showing that certain forms of inappropriate actions, extreme coercive actions (particularly instance of Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh), are still being practised. In this regard, this Department had already issued advisory on 25th July 2017 suggesting the states to avoid any coercive measures for ensuring construction and usage of toilets."

"It is reiterated that coercive action taken by anybody, including government or elected officials or private individuals with respect

Modi peppered his speech with his slogans of New India and Sabka Saath. "How have we been able to achieve this, such rapid changes in New India? India is a great culture, has its own vibrant traditions, and has encompassed universal peace. Our values and culture see divinity in every being and strive for welfare of all. The very core of our approach is public welfare through public participation. And this public welfare is not for India, but for the entire world. And that is the reason, we draw inspiration from our motto, Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas." And this, he said, applies beyond borders as well.

The seer has been courted in recent times by leaders like BJP president Amit Shah — ahead of the state assembly polls in 2018 — since the BJP is trying to make inroads into the Vokkaliga community which has traditionally allied with the JDS of Kumaraswamy and his father, former prime minister H D Devegowda.

"The issue of phone tapping is a very interesting one. When it emerged it provided evidence of the depth that had been plumbed by former chief minister of Karnataka (Kumaraswamy). They have done phone-tapping on a large scale and in an illegal manner. It is a cognizable offence. They will have to give answers and must face justice for their actions. Let the whole community know about their actions," BJP Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwathnarayan, a Vokkaliga, said Friday.

"It seems the phones of the seer and his aides were tapped. They have done it, it is the truth, there is no doubt but let it come through official channels. If they have listed the seer as a smuggler and tapped his phone then you can understand the extent to which they have gone. The Chief Minister's position was misused," he added.

Kumaraswamy has denied any role in illegal phone tapping. "Phone tapping has occurred during the tenure of every chief minister. Let them investigate me if they want. There are no worries," Kumaraswamy said this week.

to sanitation behaviour of any kind is totally unacceptable under any circumstance. In such cases, the concerned authorities should prosecute the guilty to the fullest extent of the applicable law."

The advisory also said that in the spirit of "no one should be left behind" of the government's ODF program, it was the responsibility of the state and the district to ensure that toilets are made available to each household.

The two accused involved in the Shivpuri incident, identified as Hakam Yadav and his brother Rameshwar Yadav, were arrested for murder under the IPC and the provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

QR code

Dhan, I'm all for a scheme that mandates — I mean we don't know how to go about it — but compulsory to have a QR code. Until that acceptance is not pushed or mandated or built-in in some way, we will not reach the ultimate goal of digital payments."

This week, PayTM announced its use of interoperable QR codes and plans to have 1.5 billion merchant payments with 14 million merchants.

Gopalakrishnan also promoted the idea to make anonymised UPI payment data available in the market giving the example that consumers could get better loan rates if start-ups had access to bank data. "RBI says that the bank should

He spoke on India's leadership role among developing countries which form the bulk of the 193-member United Nations. "Our endeavours are an expression of neither pity nor pretence. It is inspired by a sense of duty and duty alone. All our endeavours centre on 1.3 billion people. But the dreams that these efforts are trying to fulfill, the same dreams that the entire world has, every country and every society has."

"The efforts are ours, but the fruits are for the entire world. And this conviction gets stronger everyday when I think of those countries striving for development, each in

their own way... When I hear about their joys and sorrows, my resolve to develop my country at a faster pace gets even stronger. Because India's experience will be beneficial to these countries as well," he said.

On global warming, the Prime Minister said that even though India's contribution to global warming in terms of per-capita emissions is very low, it is at the forefront of the response against it. He highlighted steps taken by his government to fight climate change, including the 450 GW of renewable energy target and the formation of the International Solar Alliance.

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to be placed in Parliament. Maheshwari also floated the idea of a cyber ambassador — someone who knows technology well and can be the public face of Government's IT policy overseas and, not necessarily, from the External Affairs Ministry.

Ex-Niti CEO

The CBI alleged irregularities in the grant of FIPB clearance to INX Media for bringing in foreign investment, and arrested Chidambaram on August 21. Both CBI and Enforcement Directorate claimed that on March 13, 2007, INX Media approached the FIPB for approval of FDI inflow of Rs 4.6 crore from three Mauritius companies and further downstream investment in INX News.

While the FIPB granted INX Media permission on May 30, 2007 to bring in FDI of Rs 4.62 crore, it rejected the proposal of downstream investment in subsidiary INX News, the probe agencies claimed. INX Media, according to CBI, flouted the conditional FIPB approval and brought in over Rs 305 crore FDI against the approved inflow of Rs 4.62 crore and made downstream investment of 26 per cent in INX News.

The CBI said that on May 26, 2008, when the FIPB sought clarification from INX Media after the Income Tax department began its probe, the media firm engaged Karti Chidambaram, promoter-director of Chess Management Service (P) Ltd, to "amicably" resolve the issue by "influencing the public servants of the FIPB unit of

Ministry of Finance by virtue of his relationship with the then Finance Minister, P Chidambaram".

IITs

follow the one-year probationary system for fresh faculty recruits. The one-year probationary system is often criticised because it assures job security even to low-performing teachers. "This becomes more fatal if Head of the Institute and other administrators like Heads and Deans come from this category (low performers)," states the agenda of the IIT Council meeting held Friday.

The tenure track system combines academic freedom with responsibility and accountability. Higher Education Secretary R Subrahmanyam told The Indian Express Friday.

Indicating that this system may also be extended to Central universities, he added, "It is a policy the Ministry of Human Resource Development would like to follow to ensure better productivity among faculty and also to promote excellence."

The IIT Council on Friday also approved the proposal to increase the fee for M.Tech programmes significantly. The IITs, over the next three years, will hike the tuition fee to Rs 2 lakh per annum. Currently, an M.Tech student pays around Rs 30,000 every year.

Simultaneously, the current monthly stipend of Rs 12,400 for M.Tech students will be discontinued. And a "good fraction of the M.Tech. fee (say 50%) is proposed to be made available to the Departments for offering Teaching Assistantships (for UG labs and courses) to students who are competent and want them," the proposal states.

The fee hike and scrapping of stipend have been justified on the ground that this will "immediately increase the cost of 'parking' at IITs for few months" and, hence, reduce dropouts.

The IITs also agreed to permit academically weak students to exit early, after three years, with a B.Sc. degree in engineering. The modalities of the exit option will be finalised by individual institutes after consulting their respective Senates.

The agenda item on granting administrative and financial autonomy to the IITs was deferred. "This item requires more discussion and will be taken up after seeking inputs from the Prime Minister's Office as well," said an IIT director on the condition of anonymity.

Under the administrative autonomy agenda, the Council was supposed to consider a proposal to empower the Board of Governors of an IIT to pick its members and chairperson. Currently, the HRD Ministry appoints them.

The meeting was also supposed to consider a new model of financial autonomy for the IITs, in which the institutes will charge tuition fees based on actual costs (roughly Rs 7 lakh per year) from the students.

The government, on the other hand, would have provided financial help directly to the students through scholarships or "in any other manner as it deems fit". This would have replaced the block grants that the IITs receive from the government and, hence, given them the freedom from government restrictions on how to use their financial resources. However, a decision on these proposals has been deferred.

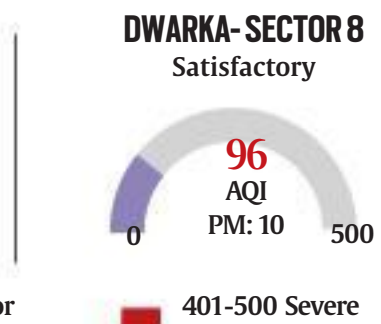
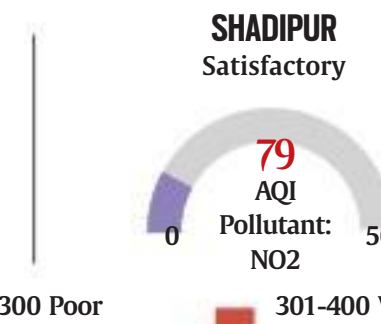
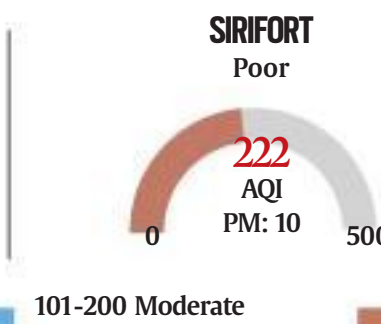
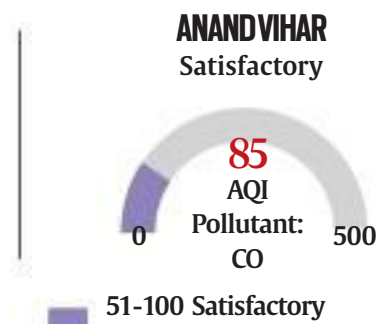
The defence argued the actor's appearance may cause a law and order issue in the city as the police will have to make adequate security arrangements. Objecting to the argument, the prosecution asked why no police complaint has been lodged by the defence if there is

a real threat to Khan's life. "It is just a gimmick," a prosecution counsel, Mahipal Bishnoi, said.

Khan's counsel also moved a fresh application seeking permanent exemption for him from personal appearance during the hearing of his appeal which began in May last year.



0-50 Good



Two held for duping 1,000 people of Rs 10 crore

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly duping over 1,000 people of over Rs 10 crore on the pretext of linking their Aadhaar cards with their mobile numbers, said police.

According to police, the accused have been identified as Alimuddin Ansari (27) and Manoj Yadav (31). A case was registered at Dwarka North police station after a man filed a complaint against the accused on April 1.

In his complaint, the man alleged that he received a call from someone claiming to be a customer care executive of a telecom operator. As per the complaint, the accused sought his debit card details, including the CVV number, and even got him to forward the OTP message he received on his phone. When he checked his account the next day, he found Rs 41 lakh missing.

Police said the money was transferred to four different bank accounts, which were traced to the accused. According to police, the accused ran multiple call centres in Jharkhand and West Bengal to run the scam. **ENS**

WILL ADDRESS SHORTFALL

4,000 teachers cleared for appointment to MCD schools

ANANYA TIWARI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

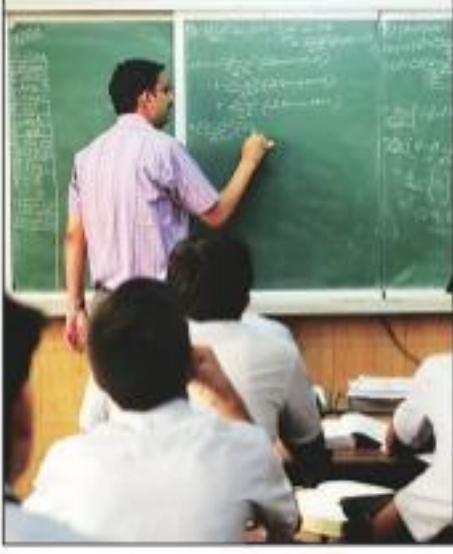
THE MUNICIPAL Corporations of Delhi are in the process of confirming more than 4,000 teachers, having received clearance from the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB).

The DSSSB has sent the dossiers of the teachers to the corporations, and letters of appointment have been sent by them to the teachers seeking confirmation.

The corporations have been given till October 15 to confirm the appointments, and the teachers have time till November 30 to join.

The teacher recruitment examination by the DSSSB was held in 2018. Around 2,000, 989, and 1,200 posts are lying vacant in schools in the East, South and North civic body schools respectively.

The posts have been vacant since 2017 and were filled by temporary teachers working on



DSSSB has sent the dossiers of the teachers to the MCDs

a contract basis or were lying unfilled. Retirement of teachers, health issues and transfer requests are the main reasons for the vacant posts, said a senior East corporation official.

The temporary teachers will be phased out gradually depending on requirements and seniority.

The DSSSB has sent dossiers of teachers for 1,871 posts for EDMC schools, which has

around 2,000 vacancies.

“The selection process has happened, and we are at certificate verification stage,” said the official.

“This is a regular process carried out by the MCD every few years,” said Mukhtaya Mandal, ADE, SDMC.

There are 989 vacant posts in SDMC schools, of which 667 are being held by temporary teachers. “We have received the dossiers of 850 teachers,” Mandal said.

At the North MCD, the DSSSB has sent 1,526 dossiers of teachers, and the letters of appointment have been sent to them, said Vedika Reddy, Deputy Commissioner, North Corporation.

“Around 600 posts are filled by temporary teachers, out of approximately 1,200 vacant posts. We have been given dossiers of 1,401 teachers for primary schools and 125 of teachers for special needs students. A total of 82 special needs teachers have been appointed already,” said Reddy.

EXPLAINED A major boost

NEW RECRUITMENT will be a major boost for MCD schools which are facing a shortage of teachers. At the primary level, most of these schools fail to meet the student-teacher ratio of 30:1, as mandated by the RTE Act. MCD schools face other challenges, like lack of desks and benches and providing money to students for uniforms and bags. Lack of infrastructure and poor quality of education are among reasons cited for a high dropout rate.

‘Speeding’ bus hits sisters on scooter, 20-yr-old dead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 27

A 20-YEAR-OLD woman died and her sister was injured after their scooter was hit by a bus in Ghaziabad’s Kavi Nagar Friday morning. The victim, Akansha Srivastava, was riding pillion while her sister Reena was driving when the incident took place.

“We received information that two people on a scooter were hit by a bus in Bulandshahr Industrial Area. While it is part of investigation, it appears that the bus was speeding. We have obtained the number of the bus and a case has been registered against an unknown person for rash driving,” said an official from Kavi Nagar police station.

According to police, the victim was a Ghaziabad resident and worked part-time at a local dairy store while studying at a local college.

According to police, the bus allegedly hit the two-wheeler from the rear. The impact was such that the victim was dragged on the ground along with it. Akansha was rushed to a nearby government hospital,



The victim's sister, who was injured in the accident

where she was declared dead on arrival.

The driver fled with the bus but the licence plate number was noted by a bystander.

Police are also obtaining CCTV footage from nearby shops to reconstruct the sequence of events.

Akansha was among five sisters and would earn for the family since their father had been unemployed for the past few years.

The scooter belonged to Reena and she was dropping Akansha to her office at Kanha Dairy, which was a daily ritual. As the two reached the industrial area, Reena stopped the vehicle and waited to take a turn at one of the signals.

“Reena told us the scooter was stationary and she did not notice vehicles coming from behind. It must have been a few seconds after they had stopped when the speeding bus hit the vehicle. Reena recalled being flipped off the scooter, which saved her life, but Akansha got dragged, which injured her very severely. She was hard working and would change jobs frequently to support the family,” said Sagar, their cousin.

The family hails from Etah and has been living in a rented accommodation close to Biskh Gate for the past seven years.

Akansha had pursued an engineering course in Saharanpur before shifting with the family to their Ghaziabad home and taking up a job.

Held for molestation, out on bail, man goes on arson rampage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

DELHI POLICE Thursday arrested two men for allegedly setting fire to 12 vehicles in Rohini’s Kanjhawala to “take revenge” on residents of three colonies who caught one of them for allegedly molesting a woman. Police said no casualty was reported in the fires — carried out on the nights of September 23 and 24 — but the vehicles were charred.

The accused have been identified as Akash (19) and Kuldeep (30), both residents of a JJ colony in Sawda, Rohini.

According to police, Akash, who secured bail after three weeks in prison, allegedly torched the vehicles to take revenge on the complainant and other residents from the locality.

“We received a complaint about the first incident in Sawda on September 23. The next day, two other complaints were registered by residents of Shiv Vihar



The accused torched 12 vehicles in three areas. *Express*

and Bhagat Singh Colony. We recovered CCTV footage and checked records of criminals in the area. A policeman identified Akash, who had secured bail recently. Akash confessed to the crime when caught,” said S D Mishra, DCP (Rohini). Police said Akash works as a labourer.

“During questioning, the accused told us that after his release, he approached Kuldeep. On September 23, they set fire to three cars and one bike in Sawda at night. The next night, they

torched over four bikes and four cars in two other colonies,” said DCP Mishra.

A case was registered against the accused under IPC section 435 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to cause damage) at Kanjhawala police station.

Akash told police about Kuldeep and he was arrested later in the day. Kuldeep, also a labourer, has allegedly been involved in theft cases in the area. Police recovered a pistol and a knife from the two accused.

5 Golden Retrievers add bite to police force



Golden Retrievers have been inducted after 15 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

AFTER 15 years, Delhi Police has inducted five Golden Retrievers into their Canine Squad, police said Friday. The dogs — aged one to two years — were trained for six months in a dog training centre run by the BSF in Tekanpur in Madhya Pradesh.

“We wanted to include Golden Retrievers in the squad but the breed is rare in training centres. Also, only a few of them can resist the harsh weather. This year,

we have included trained dogs in the team. These dogs are taught to sniff and detect explosives. We are planning to include more Golden Retrievers this year,” said Rajan Bhagat, DCP (crime branch).

Police said there are 60 dogs, excluding Golden Retrievers, in the canine squad in Delhi. These include breeds like Labradors and German Shepherds.

“We are waiting for the new dogs to get acclimatised to the weather. They will be put on duty soon. We also have one Cocker Spaniel which was inducted this year,” added Bhagat.

No candidates in fray from Gurgaon on day 1 of nominations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 27

THE FIRST day for filing nominations for the upcoming Haryana state polls saw no candidates submit their documents in any of the four Vidhan Sabha constituencies falling within the Gurgaon district Friday.

This means the first nomination will now be filed only on Monday, with Saturday and Sunday being holidays. The elections are to be held on October 21.

A spokesperson from the district administration said, “As per directions of the Election Commission of India, this Saturday, being the fourth Saturday of the month, is a holiday, and Sunday is a public holiday. Due to this, filing of candi-

Since Saturday and Sunday are holidays, candidates can now file nominations only on Monday

date nominations will not take place on either day.”

Candidates could have filed nominations between 11 am and 3 pm on Friday in the four constituencies of Gurgaon district — Gurgaon, Badshahpur, Pataudi, and Sohna.

District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon Amit Khatri said, “Today (Friday) was the first day to file nominations for the state polls. However, nobody from the four constituencies in Gurgaon filed their nominations.”

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance,
Department of Financial Services
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road,
Dehradun, UK. 248171

BEFORE THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I, DRT, DEHRADUN
NOTICE OF DEMAND & APPEARANCE

(NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF Ind. SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961 READ WITH SECTION 25 TO 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993)

R.C. No. 430/2018 in T.A. No. 516/2018 Dy. No. 609 Date: 03.09.2019
The South Indian Bank Ltd. V/s Smt. Preeja Ramchandran & Ors.
69, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand

To,

CD. 1: Smt. Preeja Ramchandran Proprietrix, M/s Malabar South Indian Store, W/o Mr. P.P. Ramchandran 75/72, Sai Shopping Centre, Cannaught Place, Chakrata Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand also at 94/-1, Paradurath House, Patel Nagar, Guru Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

CD.2: P.P. Ramchandran, son of Sri P.P. Pushpakaran, resident 94/1, Paradurath House, Guru Road, Patel Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. **Certificate Debtors**

(i) This is to notify that amount of Rs. 12,19,427.20 (Rupees Twelve Lac Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Seven & Paise Twenty Only) plus pendent Lite and future interest @12.00% P.A. simple rate of interest on reducing balance from the date of filing of O.A. being 05.11.2015 and costs Rs. 64,036.00 is due against you as per Recovery Certificate issued dated 03.12.2018 by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun in T.A. No. 516/2018.

(ii). Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that it is not possible to serve you demand notice in ordinary Course, therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to pay the above sum within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules thereunder.

(iii) In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:-
(a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the Certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the services of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

(iv) In case the above said amount is not paid by you then you are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **29.10.2019 at 11.00 A.M.** for further proceeding.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 3rd day of September, 2019.
Sd.
Recovery Officer-I
DRT, Dehradun

CH. CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY, MEERUT
चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ
31वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह अधिसूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि चौ० चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ का 31वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह सोमवार, दिनांक 30 सितम्बर, 2019 को होना सुनिश्चित हुआ है। दीक्षान्त समारोह की अध्यक्षता माननीय कुलाधिपति एवं श्री राज्यपाल श्रीमती आनंदीबेन पटेल करेंगी तथा समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि प्रो० रमेश चन्द, सदस्य, नीति आयोग एवं 15वाँ वित्त आयोग, नई दिल्ली होंगे। दीक्षान्त समारोह में कार्यक्रमानुसार विश्वविद्यालय के विभिन्न संकायों में सर्वोच्च स्थान प्राप्तकर्ता विद्यार्थियों को पदक, प्रायोजित पदक, शोध छात्रों को उपाधि, विशिष्ट योग्यता प्रमाण पत्र व पदक, लाला लाजपतराय मेडिकल कॉलेज, मेरठ से एम०बी० बी०एस० एवं एम०डी०/एम०एस० उपाधि तथा विश्वविद्यालय परिसर से एम०ए०, एम०एससी०, एम०फिल० एवं अन्य पाठ्यक्रमों के उपाधि धारकों को उपाधि प्रदान की जायेगी। उपाधियों का वितरण दीक्षान्त समारोह के दिन प्रातः 7.30 बजे से 09.30 बजे तक विश्वविद्यालय परिसर के गोपनीय विभाग के काउन्टर से किया जायेगा।

कार्यक्रम
(दिनांक 30.09.2019 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से)
वर्ष 2019 में प्रदत्त किये जाने वाले पदकों से अर्ह विद्यार्थियों का अलंकरण, किसान ट्रस्ट, नई दिल्ली के पुरस्कारों से अर्ह विद्यार्थियों का अलंकरण, प्रायोजित पदक, विशिष्ट योग्यता प्रमाण पत्र तथा विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा पूर्व परम्परानुसार दीक्षान्त समारोह में प्रदान की जाने वाली उपाधियों से विमुक्ति किया जाना एवं दीक्षोपदेश नेताजी सुभाषचन्द्र बोस प्रेक्षागृह, विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सम्पन्न होगा।

समस्त पदक एवं प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त करने वाले विद्यार्थी दिनांक 28.09.2019 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे विश्वविद्यालय परिसर स्थित नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस प्रेक्षागृह में पहुँचकर अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज कराते हुए वांछित पत्राजातों को उपलब्ध करायेंगे। दीक्षान्त समारोह का कार्यक्रम, उपाधि वितरण का कार्यक्रम, सभी पदक व उपाधि धारकों की सूची एवं अद्यतन सूचना चौ० चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ की वेबसाईट **www.ccsuniversity.ac.in** पर उपलब्ध रहेगी। अर्ह विद्यार्थियों से अपेक्षित है कि विश्वविद्यालय वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध विवरण व कार्यक्रमानुसार निर्धारित प्रारूप में पदक प्राप्त किये जाने की समस्त औपचारिकतायें पूर्ण कर अपनी उपाधि तथा पदक ग्रहण करने के लिए उपस्थित हों।

विशेष:- दीक्षान्त समारोह में प्रदेश विमन्त्रण-पत्र एवं फोटोयुक्त परिचय-पत्र के द्वारा निर्धारित समय तक ही होगा, इनके अभाव में प्रवेश वर्जित होगा।

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CELEBRATIONS ALONG ROUTE FROM AIRPORT

As PM arrives in capital today, Delhi BJP rolls out red carpet

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

FROM SINGING and dancing to a show of “cultural diversity”, the BJP has planned a grand reception for Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he returns from a visit to the United States Saturday.

Delhi BJP vice-president Abhay Verma, who is part of the team organising the event, said they expect the crowd, which will include BJP leaders and workers, to touch 50,000 people.

Also invited are musicians, dancers and singers who will be dressed in “traditional attire” to welcome the PM along the 2-3 km stretch from the airport. “Delhi represents India; it is a place of cultural diversity, so the idea is to make the place feel like



The Prime Minister at the UN headquarters in New York Friday. Reuters

a mini-India,” Verma said. Senior leaders said the party wants to “match up to the attendance in Houston” during the ‘Howdy Modi’ event. Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel, Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta, all seven Delhi

MPs, general secretary (organisation) Siddharthan, MCD mayors, standing committee heads and leaders of the house of the three corporations are scheduled to go to the airport to receive the PM. Morcha leaders, councillors and district and mandal leaders will be present outside.

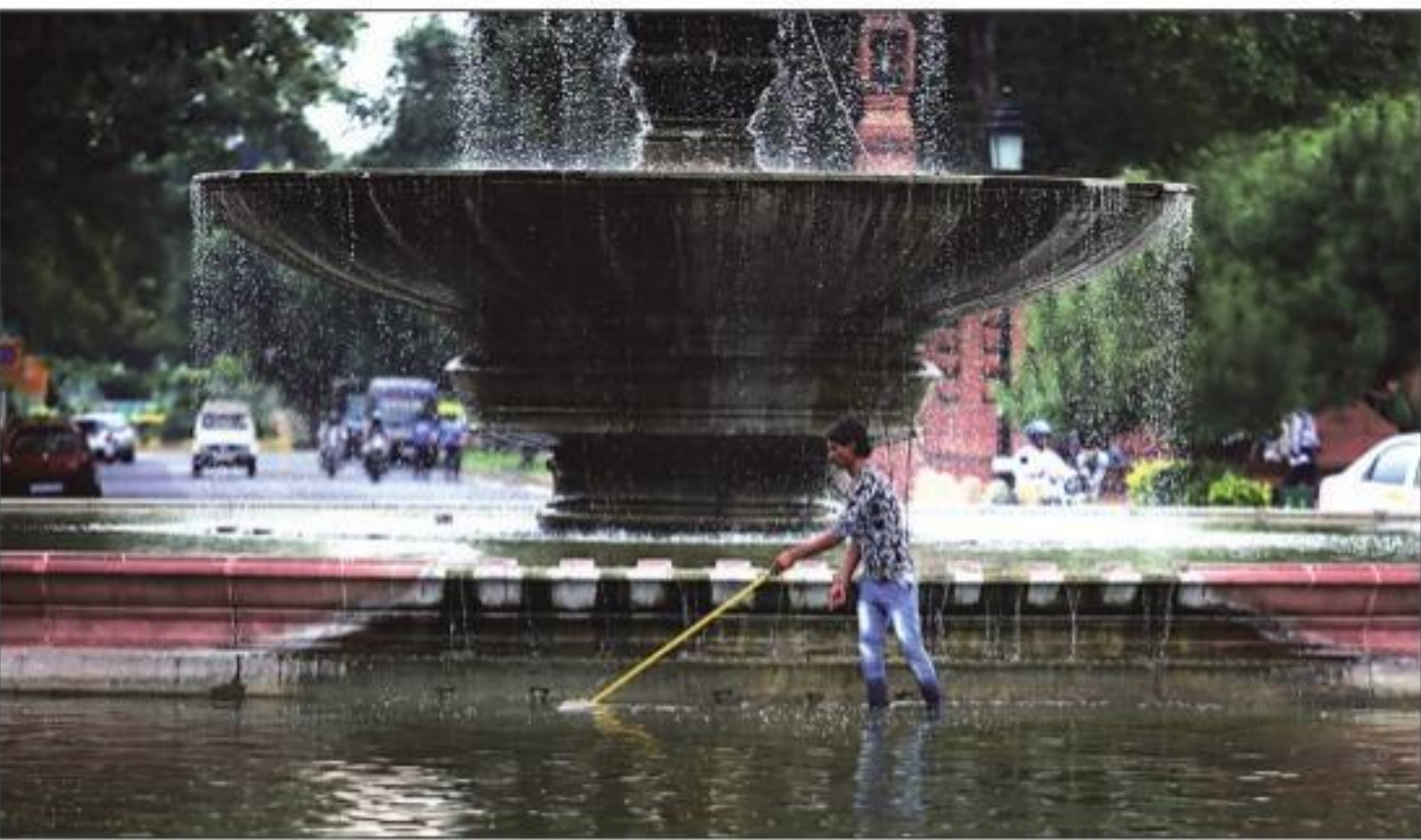
MP Vijay Goel said, “We are going to celebrate his return because he has given us moments of immense pride at the event. He made a strong pitch against terrorism in the presence of (US President) Donald Trump... He has shown the world that he is a statesman who is not only transforming India but is also a decisive leader in the global fora.”

Delhi BJP vice-president Jai Prakash said there will be “Haryanvi, Bhojpuri, Assamese, Uttarakhandi and South Indian”

singers and musicians dressed in traditional attire.

Party leader Kuljeet Chahal said there will be hoardings and banners welcoming the PM along the route, and party workers will line up to greet him. “People have been given the 6 pm time and 10 spots have been especially earmarked where people with drums and other musical instruments will be stationed,” he said.

Office bearers from the Central team, including BJP national general secretary Arun Singh and Delhi co-in-charge Tarun Chugh, are also likely to be present. Last October, the Delhi BJP had planned a reception for the PM when he returned after being conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018. The scale of the celebration has been increased this time.



SPRUCING UP

A worker cleans the fountain at Vijay Chowk, Friday. Praveen Khanna

DDC, Harvard tie up to study free bus rides, women’s safety

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE THINK-TANK of the Delhi government, Dialogue & Development Commission, is collaborating with a research team from Harvard University and the World Bank to study the impact of free bus rides for women on their safety and mobility. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced that bus scheme will be implemented from October 29.

The study aims to analyse mobility patterns and perceived

safety before and after the policy’s launch, using several comparison groups of individuals less likely to be impacted by it. These groups will include both women and men who travel regularly but do not use buses.

The data will be collected from a sample of approximately 800 women living across the capital through an initial household baseline survey, as well as repeated telephone surveys, before and after the policy’s launch.

The data will include a travel diary and questions on observed and experienced incidents re-

lated to women’s safety in public transport. Additionally, the research team will also collect data on bus ridership separately on the basis of gender, through direct observation at selected bus stops throughout Delhi, both before and after the policy.

“The Delhi government was very concerned about the falling perception of women’s safety in the capital, as well as their low rates of participation in the workforce, both of which were a motivation behind bringing out this scheme,” said DDC vice-chairman Jasmine Shah.

For buses, 5,500 former home guards as marshals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

TO ENSURE the safety of women passengers travelling in DTC buses, the Delhi government will appoint 5,500 former home guards as marshals in DTC and cluster buses plying in the capital. The move came after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met former home guards outside his residence Friday.

In a statement, the government said recruitment and appointment of marshals will be completed before Diwali. The government will seek applications for the posts by advertising in newspapers within two-three days. In a tweet, Kejriwal said the government will appoint former home guards as marshals, saying that women in buses will feel safer.

“First priority will be given to home guards who have served for three years. Those who have served for two years will then be chosen,” the government said in a statement.

Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain said that as per official data, there are 5,000 ex-home guards who were let go. He said all 5,000 are expected to get jobs, adding they will only have to submit certificates with proof of their age and experience for the job.

This is the first time that marshals are being deployed in cluster buses.

BRIEFLY

BJP seeks apology from CM, Bhardwaj

New Delhi: The Delhi BJP Friday sent legal notices to CM Arvind Kejriwal and AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj demanding an apology for their “comments against party chief Manoj Tiwari on the NRC issue”. Kejriwal had Wednesday said, “If NRC is implemented in Delhi, Manoj Tiwari will be the first person who has to leave Delhi.” The notices, sent by Delhi BJP’s media relations head Neelkant Bakshi on behalf of Tiwari, threatened Kejriwal and Bhardwaj of civil and criminal action if they failed to apologise in the next two days. AAP’s Nagendra Sharma said, “Legal matters will be replied legally.”

DU students hold protest

New Delhi: Some students of Miranda House and Kirori Mal College Friday formed a human chain to protest the construction of a 39-storey building in North Campus. “If the building is constructed, it will not only pose a threat to the privacy of the girl students living around the university, it will also increase the danger to historical buildings around it,” said DU Teachers’ Association (DUTA) vice-president Alok Ranjan Pandey. The DMRC said it has followed all proper procedures and approvals in the issue.

Lawyer held for violating poll code

Gurgaon: A lawyer at the Faridabad district court has been arrested for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct by posting a picture on Facebook with the intention of spreading “unrest” in society, police said. ENS

AAP got autos, BJP targets e-rickshaws for campaign

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

IN THE run up to next year’s Assembly polls, the BJP plans to get e-rickshaw drivers on its side with a campaign centred around their needs, much like the Aam Aadmi Party’s push for auto-rickshaws in the capital, many of which have ‘I Love Kejriwal’ painted on the back.

With the number of e-rickshaws crossing the 1 lakh mark, Delhi BJP leaders said owners of these vehicles form a substantial voter base, and the vehicles can be used to paste banners and stickers ahead of the polls. To this end, there will be a series of outreach programmes with e-rickshaw associations where leaders will listen to their demands and put pressure on the government to get them approved.

Last week, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari and Kapil Mishra, who left AAP for BJP, met a faction of e-rickshaw owners at Jantar Mantar, who pressed that at least 200 out of the 236 roads where the vehicles are barred from entry be opened to them.

Tiwari said, “They don’t get benefit of free electricity as there are hardly any charging and parking points for them... and they are



Praveen Khanna

E-rickshaw owners met Delhi BJP general secretary (organisation) Siddharthan at the Pant Marg office Friday.

forced to stand anywhere. This leads to frequent challans. We will put pressure on the Delhi government to provide these facilities, or we will give it to them when we come to power. We also demand that they be exempted from fitness and service tax.”

While they started plying in 2012, in the past five years, e-rickshaws have seen an exponential growth. There are 71,092 e-rickshaws registered with the Delhi government, while their actual number is above one lakh.

Several drivers and owners are people are from the Purvanchali community who live in JJ clusters — a vote bank that

supported the AAP in the Assembly polls last time. Delhi BJP vice-president Jai Prakash said e-rickshaws were given legal status by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and the party will keep their demands in mind while preparing Delhi’s manifesto.

Unchecked growth of these vehicles, however, has been a matter of concern in the capital. The Delhi Traffic Police issued over 1,65,000 challans in 2018 to owners for offences such as entering a one-way lane, overloading, wrong parking and underage driving.

AAP MLA Jarnail Singh had recently demanded framing of a policy to regulate them.

Ex-DUSU head gets interim protection from arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE DELHI High Court Friday granted interim protection from arrest to Ankiv Baisoya, who stepped down as Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) president and is facing criminal proceedings for furnishing a fake degree for admission into the varsity, after he disclosed the contact details of the person who gave him the forged documents.

Justice Suresh Kait granted the interim relief till December 12, the next date of hearing.

The court Thursday asked Baisoya to disclose contact details of the person who gave him the fake degree and marks sheet.

It was hearing his plea challenging a trial court’s decision rejecting his application for antic-

ipatory bail in the case.

Delhi Police had earlier opposed Baisoya’s appeal, saying he had not cooperated with the investigation. Police had booked Baisoya for cheating and forgery under the IPC on a complaint filed by DU, after it came to know about the fake degree.

The matter came to light after Sunny Chhillar, who was fielded by the Congress’s student wing NSUI for the post of DUSU president, challenged Baisoya’s election, saying his graduation degree was fake and, therefore, his nomination was void ab-initio.

Baisoya had claimed he graduated from TN’s Thiruvalluvar University, which had denied the same. He had resigned from his post on November 15 last year after the ABVP, the BJP’s student wing, reportedly asked him to do so.

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NOTICE OF RECORD DATE
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that Tuesday, 15th October 2019 has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of payment of half-yearly interest to the holders of 10.75% Unsecured Subordinated Rated Listed Non-Convertible Debentures (ISIN:INE245A08042) aggregating ₹1,500 crore, due on 31st October 2019.
For The Tata Power Company Limited
H. M. Mistry
Company Secretary (FCS : 3606)
Place : Mumbai
Dated : 26th September 2019

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
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RECRUITMENT NOTICE
The Food Corporation of India (FCI), one of the largest Public Sector Undertakings ensuring the food security of the Nation, invites only **ONLINE APPLICATIONS** for the posts of **Manager (General/Depot/ Movement/Accounts/Technical/Civil Engineering/ Electrical Mechanical Engineering/Hindi)** in its Depots and Offices spread all over the Country from eligible candidates who fulfil the prescribed qualifications, age, experience etc.
1. Candidates may apply Online through www.fci.gov.in
2. For details regarding eligibility criteria, reservation, age, etc., candidates may please refer to the detailed advertisement published in "Employment News / Rozgar Samachar" dated **28th September, 2019** or in the FCI website www.fci.gov.in
3. Submission of Online Application Form will commence from **28.09.2019, 10:00 Hrs. The last date for Online application is 27.10.2019 till 16:00 Hrs.**

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NOTICE
With reference to the Advertisement No.31/OMC dated 31.07.2019 regarding recruitment of 21 Executive posts of different cadres in Dy. Manager level (E-2 grade) in OMC Ltd., this is for information of all applicants that the Online Test (Computer Based Test-CBT) will be conducted on **25.10.2019 (Friday)** at **Bhubaneswar**.
Further the applicants are advised to visit OMC website (www.omcltd.in) regularly for their updates on "Important Dates" & other information pertaining to the CBT.
Sd/-
Director (Personnel)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT
Vacancy Notice
Applications are invited for Regional Direct Recruitment to the following post in a Government of India organization:-

Name of Post and number of vacancies		Deputy Field Officer (GD) (Group 'B', non-Gazetted post) Candidates belonging to NE region, who know any of the under-mentioned languages with proficiency to read, write and speak and fulfill the following laid-down eligibility conditions may apply for the post: (Garo-3, Burmese-2, Assamese-2, Nagamese (Main dialect)-2, Nagamese (Nocte)-1, Nagamese (Tangsa)-1, Nagamese (Wancho)-1, Nagamese (Konyak)-2, Nagamese (Sema)-2, Nagamese (Pangmi)-2, Nagamese (Thangkhol)-2, Bodo-3, Mara-2, Arakanese-2, Chin-2
Pay		Post carries initial pay of Rs.44,900/- in level-7 in the Pay Matrix as per Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2016. The above post also carries a special allowance of 20% of the basic pay.
Eligibility Conditions	Age	30 years as on closing date.
	Educational Qualification	Bachelor's degree from a recognized University or Institution.

For detailed eligibility conditions including age relaxation applicable, application format and other details please see Employment News dated **28.09.2019**.
Closing Date- **12.11.2019**.
davp 58101/11/0022/1920

Dental Council of India (DCI) Invites
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
for Selection of System Integrator for Design, Development, Implementation, Operation & Maintenance of Digital Dental Council of India and its constituent colleges across the various states of India - OFSAMS (Online Faculty & Students Attendance Monitoring System)
For RFP Document please visit :
DCI : <http://dciindia.gov.in/>
CDC : <https://www.cdc.org.in/>
For clarifications please contact CDC at 011-24603425
Last Date for Submission : 01st November 2019, before 1400 hrs.
davp 17110/11/0004/1920

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
BHAGWAN MAHAVIR HOSPITAL
H-4/5, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034.
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is brought to the notice of the general public that Mrs. Bhawna W/o Chetan Sabharwal D/o Sh. Subhash Chander R/o H.No. 815/7 C/o Batra Hospital, Sant Nagar, Railway Road Patiala Chowk, Jind -126102 (Haryana), working as Nursing Officer in Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, GNCT of Delhi has been unauthorizedly absent from duty since 26/06/2015. Through this notice Mrs. Bhawna, Nursing Officer is hereby directed to join her duties in Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, GNCT of Delhi within 30 days of publication of this Public Notice and submit explanations for her such unauthorized absence, failing which disciplinary proceedings, as per rules, will be initiated against her.
Sd/-
(DR. ALKA AGGARWAL)
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
DIP/Shabdarth/0748/19-20



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



NEGOTIATIONS MAN

UNLIKE BJP president Amit Shah's visit to Matoshree in Mumbai earlier this year to negotiate and seal a seat-sharing deal with Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray for the Lok Sabha polls, both parties are playing down the ongoing negotiations for their share of seats in the Maharashtra Assembly polls next month. While an agreement is considered likely, many BJP indicate that this time Shah will neither go to Matoshree, nor address the media jointly with Uddhav. It would be left to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to do the honours on behalf of the BJP.

LYRICS OF LANGUAGE

WHETHER IT was the suggestion of the three-language formula in the proposed National Education Policy or advocacy of Hindi by the Home Minister recently, the BJP-led Union government has faced flak from Opposition political leaders of non-Hindi speaking states for several decisions. But one non-Hindi language — Tamil — seems to be a favourite of the country's leadership in its public pronouncements. While President Ram Nath Kovind invoked poet Subramania Bharati's Tamil poem in his address to the nation on the eve of the Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi invoked a quote from Saint Thiruvalluvar at the Red Fort the next day. The latest: Modi invoked Tamil philosopher Kaniyan Pungundranar in his address to the UN General Assembly on Friday.

IN LAW WE TRUST

SPEAKING AT the release of 'Parameswara to PP', a book on senior advocate PP Rao, considered a doyen of constitutional law, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu ended his speech quoting David Pannick, a leading barrister from the UK and member of the House of Lords who is also in the news for leading the legal team that argued in the historic case against illegality of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to prorogue Parliament. Naidu used excerpts from Pannick's book and said, "Judges are mere mortals but they are asked to perform a function that is truly divine."

SC Collegium clears names of 7 judicial officers for Bombay HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE SUPREME Court Collegium has cleared the names of seven judicial officers, including three who had crossed the prescribed age limit, for appointment as judges of the Bombay High Court.

The Collegium, comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SA Bobde and NV Ramana, decided to overlook the age norms, keeping in mind the "excellent service record" of the three judicial officers and the "huge pendency" of cases in the High Court.

"The Collegium has duly taken note of the observation made in the file that three Judicial Officers viz. S/Shri B.U. Debadwar, S.P. Tavade, and S.D. Kulkarnihad crossed the prescribed age limit of 58-1/2 years on the date of vacancies against which their names have been

recommended. In this regard, while approving the proposal for their elevation we have taken into account the fact that Bombay High Court is grappling with huge pendency of civil as well as criminal cases, as it is functioning with 67 Judges against the total Judge-strength of 94 (constituting about 29 per cent vacancies). Apart from this, we have taken into account their excellent service record which reflects that they are persons with all the qualities like high level of judicial acumen, conduct, character and integrity, which make them eminently suitable for elevation. Their judgments have been graded as A/B+," the Collegium resolution, dated September 26, said.

The Collegium also approved the name of a lawyer for appointment to the HC.

It also decided to recommend the elevation of six judicial officers as judges of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

NIT-Srinagar reopens on Oct 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE NATIONAL Institute of Technology (NIT) in Srinagar will reopen on October 15, more than two months after the abrogation of Article 370 forced the institute to shut down indefinitely.

Higher Education Secretary R Subrahmanyam announced the decision on Twitter on Friday. "NIT Srinagar will reopen on 15th October! @HRDMinistry @nitsrofficial Wishing all the best for a smooth academic session ahead," he tweeted.

The decision, *The Indian Express* has learned, was taken on Friday after consulting the state administration. "The state Chief Secretary was consulted, and he felt the situation was conducive for the institute to re-open," said a senior official.

The institute is closed since August 3, when close to 1,500 stu-



NIT Srinagar has been closed since August 3.

dents were asked to vacate the campus. Till date, only 560 out of the 778 first-year students have reported at NIT-Srinagar. The deadline for joining the institute, for first-year students, has been extended indefinitely.

Since NIT-Srinagar closed in the middle of placement season, about 70 outstation students are camping in a hostel in Ghaziabad

Modi, Rouhani discuss Chabahar operationalisation, regional situation



SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 27

AT A time when the US administration led by President Donald Trump is exercising maximum pressure on Iran and calling it the biggest state sponsor of terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and reiterated India's support to give priority to "diplomacy, dialogue and confidence-building" for maintaining peace and security in the Persian Gulf.

From India's strategic perspective, they discussed operationalisation of the Chabahar port at the meeting. "They especially mentioned operationalisation of Chabahar Port and noted its importance as a gateway to and for the landlocked Afghanistan and the Central Asian region," an official statement said. They also agreed to mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2020.

After meeting Rouhani on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the General Assembly, Modi tweeted, "Delighted to meet President @HassanRouhani. We had in-depth discussions on the full range of India-Iran ties, and regional & global matters."

The MEA statement also said they discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest. "Noting that India and Iran shared old and civilisational ties, the two leaders positively assessed the progress in bilateral relations since their first meeting at Ufa in 2015," it said.

They "discussed bilateral co-operation and exchanged views on the situation in the region", MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

The two leaders could not hold a scheduled meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in June due to scheduling issues.

At the US President's press conference on Wednesday, both Trump and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo had talked up



PM Narendra Modi with Iranian PM Hassan Rouhani in New York on Thursday. *ANI*

Explained Major source of oil import cut off

INDIA, THE world's third biggest oil consumer, meets more than 80 per cent of its oil needs through imports. Iran was its third-largest supplier after Iraq and Saudi Arabia till recently. The six-month-long exemptions from US sanctions to India and seven other countries to buy oil from Iran expired on May 2 as Washington did not extend it. India has not been able to buy oil from Iran after that. The Modi-Rouhani meet comes in this backdrop.

the actions against Iran.

The tension between the two countries came to the fore when on September 24, ahead the bilateral meeting between Modi and Trump, the US President while responding to questions on Pakistan being the epicentre of terrorism said, "You mentioned Pakistan, Iran will have to be on top of the list because if you really look at the terror states..." This is contrary to Delhi's position with regard to its neighbours.

Tension between Iran and the US on Tehran's nuclear programme has escalated in recent weeks, since Iran has been accused by the US and its allies of attacking two key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia.

EC reschedules bypolls to 15 Karnataka seats to December 5

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE ELECTION Commission on Friday rescheduled bypolls to 15 Assembly seats in Karnataka, pending the Supreme Court's decision on a plea by 17 rebel Congress and JD(S) MLAs who have challenged their disqualification from the Assembly.

The bypolls, which were scheduled to be held on October 21, will now be conducted on December 5. The results will be declared on December 9.

The nominations already filed by with the EC, till date, will be scrutinised on November 19, the EC said.

The change was notified a day after the poll panel assured the top court that it would postpone the bypolls, since the bench said it did not want to give a piecemeal order and would prefer to decide the MLAs' case once and for all. The court will now take up the matter on October 22.

The MLAs have questioned former Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar's refusal to accept their resignations and instead disqualify

AMU Kashmiri students reject Yogi event on Art 370

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 27

STUDENTS OF Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) who hail from the Valley, invited by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for a discussion on Article 370 and other issues, have refused to take part in the event. Meanwhile, students from other institutes from three districts of western Uttar Pradesh reached Lucknow Friday to attend the event, sources said.

Adityanath is scheduled to hold a discussion on several issues, including Article 370, with Kashmiri students studying in institutes in Aligarh, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad districts in Lucknow on Saturday.

Shafe Kidwai, member and in charge of public relations at AMU, said the university had informed the students about the event, but



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly. *MEA Twitter/PTI*

Quad meet focuses on free, prosperous Indo-Pacific

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 27

IN A bid to advance openness and economic prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, foreign ministers of India, US, Australia and Japan met on Thursday to discuss collective efforts and commitment to close cooperation on counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security cooperation, development finance, and cyber security efforts.

This is the first time that foreign ministers of the Quad countries have met, in a three-level upgrade from joint secretary-level officials. The Quad has met four times since November 2017, when it was revived.

"The US looks forward to another Quad senior officials' meeting on the sidelines of the November 2019 East Asia Summit in Bangkok. We are very much looking forward to future productive discussions that will serve as a jumping-off point for even deeper cooperation in areas of mutual interest to our four countries and to our friends and partners in ASEAN and beyond," a US State Department official said.

Another State Department official called it "a significant elevation of the level of the dialogue".

"If I could single out India's role in the Quad, I think it highlights India's leadership in the Indo-Pacific region; it's one of the many ways that the US and India are now cooperating closely on shared strategic objectives as highlighted during President Trump's meeting with Prime Minister Modi earlier this week; the 2+2 structure that we've set up, and the deepening of our defence partnership, and trilateral relations with Japan as seen in the Malabar exercise that's ongoing," the US official said.

"We really do welcome and support India's emergence as a net security provider in the region and a global actor, and we regard India's contributions as vital to the safeguarding of a rules-based system in the Indo-Pacific. It reflects a shared commitment to uphold the rule of law, counterterrorism cooperation, freedom of navigation, democratic values, and economic growth. These are all values we want to advance across the region."

In addition to work through

Denied Cong ticket in Punjab's Jalalabad, rebel leader to contest as Independent

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 27

DENIED THE Congress ticket from the Jalalabad Assembly segment in Punjab, Jagdeep Kamboj alias Goldy Kamboj Friday filed nomination papers as an Independent, throwing up a challenge for the party's official candidate Raminder Awla.

"I have filed nomination papers as an Independent for contesting from Jalalabad. I asked the party high command to either change the ticket or face opposition from me. I will withdraw nomination papers only if Congress withdraws ticket from Awla and gives it to me," Kamboj said.

Kamboj on Friday took out a rally with his supporters before submitting his papers at the SDM office.

After Congress announced Awla as candidate for bypoll to Jalalabad seat on September 23, Kamboj resigned from party's primary membership and also from the post of the national secretary of the Youth Congress.

Kamboj said he has worked for the people of the constituency and it is his right to fight the election from there.

Referring to Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar, Kamboj said he would not tolerate "gifting" his right to anyone by a senior Congress leader. Awla is considered close to Jakhar.

Kamboj said the party had given the ticket to an "outsider". "Even one per cent people of this segment do not know him (Awla)," Kamboj said.

the Quad, US officials said they are looking to expanding cooperation with India through bilateral mechanisms, but also in multilateral fora like those related to the ASEAN.

"I think there's recognition that in the past we didn't have that similar likemindedness necessarily among the four partners, and over the past two years we've been able to demonstrate what's changed. We have a shared evaluation of the security threats and threats facing the region when countries don't have options to develop in a sustainable and free manner, and that's really brought our four nations together. Again, I would emphasise as one mechanism, one architecture that complements and supplements other formats that we are all engaged in to promote the free and open Indo-Pacific," the official said.

On the possible threats, the official said, "I think there's been unnecessary Kremlinology in trying to parse statements that are issued by the participating countries. It's what unites all the statements. And that is the avowed expression of support for the values that undergird a free and open Indo-Pacific, and there we're rock solid."

Congress says party united, will form next govt in Haryana

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 27

THE CONGRESS'S determination to not allow the BJP to "inject" issues into the political discourse and the Manohar Lal Khattar government's "misgovernance" will pave the way for the Opposition party's victory in the Haryana Assembly polls next month, according to the state Congress committee.

State Congress chief Kumari Selja and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Friday launched the party's poll campaign, 'Pehle Report, Phir Vote'. The campaign aims to demand answers from the state government regarding the promises they made and their "non-fulfilment". A toll free number was also launched, where people can give their feedback on the Congress's campaign.

Speaking to reporters, Selja expressed confidence that the Congress will form the next government in the state. On what has changed for the party since its poor performance in the Lok Sabha polls, she said, "The issues were different in Lok Sabha elections, different issues had been brought in. Today also, they are trying to do the same, but the people of Haryana cannot be misled. Today there are major issues confronting the people of the state... even today, they are trying to inject issues. Those are not going to work. Haryana's elections will be held on Haryana's issues and issues that affect residents of Haryana."

EAM: SAARC a story of deliberate obstacles, terror one of them

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 27

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that SAARC is not just a story of missed opportunities but also of deliberate obstacles, one of them being terrorism.

Jaishankar said this, without directly mentioning Pakistan, at the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting on Thursday.

While Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi boycotted Jaishankar's statement, senior official and Pakistan foreign ministry spokesperson Mohammad Faisal was present at the meeting.

"Ours is really not just a story of missed opportunities but also of deliberate obstacles. Terrorism is among them. In our view, elimination of terrorism in all its forms is a precondition not only for fruitful cooperation, but also for the very survival of our region itself," Jaishankar told the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the UNGA.

"I reiterate our leaders' statement in Kathmandu in 2014, where they called for full and effective implementation of SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, including through enacting necessary legislation at the national level to root out terrorism. The relevance of SAARC would be determined by these actions against terrorism and this will decide our collective journey of the future becoming more productive," he said.

He said the example of South Asia Satellite is instructive of how India has been taking up initiatives for prosperity in the neighbourhood. South Asia Satellite, launched in 2017 with an intention to arrive at scientific solutions to address poverty in the SAARC region, has impact in sectors like health, education, disaster response weather forecasting, he said.

Qureshi did not attend the SAARC foreign ministers' meeting as long as Jaishankar was present. He came after Jaishankar left the venue, and said, "Do you think I will sit down with the butcher of Kashmir?"

An Indian official, referring to Qureshi's boycott and remark, said: "Such drama will not work. Pakistan has to create a conducive atmosphere for the SAARC process to go ahead."



Bhopinder Singh Hooda



HARYANA

Hooda said the Congress is "completely ready" and aims to "look forward, not backward". He said the BJP government's "failure" to fulfil promises would bring about the downfall of the party.

"When the BJP government was formed 5 years ago, people had many hopes, lot of promises were made. Today that hope has turned into disappointment... This government is not a performing government, it is an event management government, whether it is law and order, employment," he said.

Commenting on rival parties' claims that the Congress is a divided house, Hooda said, "Congress is united. It is not one person or two persons, Congress is a party that is completely united. There can be difference in opinion in a democratic party like ours but in the elections, everyone will fight as one."



Pawar calls off ED visit over ‘law & order situation’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

NCP CHIEF Sharad Pawar on Friday called off the visit he had planned to the Mumbai office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which had named him in a money laundering case registered in connection with the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam, but only after he made a point that he is not a spent political force yet.

Pawar supporters had started gathering near Ballard Estate in south Mumbai, where the ED office is located, despite prohibitory orders being imposed in the area under CrPC Section 144 since late Thursday.

As tensions mounted, the ED reiterated on Friday it had not summoned Pawar. Following this, Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Barve called on the NCP chief at his

Peddar Road residence and requested him not to go to the ED office in view of a possible law and order situation. Hundreds of NCP supporters had gathered around the ED office by then despite the prohibitory orders.

For a party that had been wrecked by desertions, Friday was its best day in months.

“The Mumbai Police commissioner met me and apprised me of the possibility that the law and order situation in the city could deteriorate. He requested me not to go to the ED office. I have been the home minister of this state and do believe that the life of a common man should not be disturbed. Hence, I have decided to call off my visit today,” Pawar said told mediapersons.

Barve met Pawar after the ED sent an email communication informing the NCP chief that he is not required to depose on Friday and he will be called when required. Sources said the



Sharad Pawar at his residence. Ashish Kale

agency told him that while his cooperation is appreciated, he is not required to come on Friday.

“I had sent a letter to them (ED) stating that I would be visiting their office on Friday. On Thursday night, I received a reply from them stating that they had not called me for questioning and in case they required my

presence, they would call me on the phone and give prior notification,” Pawar said.

On September 24, the ED had registered a case of alleged money laundering against Pawar, his nephew Ajit Pawar and several others, including leaders of other parties. The next day, Pawar had said that he would voluntar-

ily go to the ED office, as he did not want the agency to believe that he had vanished or was avoiding an inquiry.

The NCP had planned to make as much of as possible of the visit to the ED, with a show of strength by the party faithful.

Early Friday, senior police officers, including Mumbai Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Vinoy Kumar Choubey, visited Pawar’s residence, requesting him not to go to the ED office. But the NCP leadership, whose entire top brass was huddled inside the residence, was in no mood to relent, and it was only after the police commissioner met Pawar that the plan was called off.

Pawar, meanwhile, received support from parties like the Congress and the Samajwadi Party. SP Maharashtra chief Abu Asim Azmi paid him a visit while Congress workers donned “Gandhi topis” emblazoned with

slogans in his support.

Pawar went on to thank senior Congress leaders. “I would like to thank all those who have come out in support of me, including Rahul Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, among other senior leaders,” Pawar said, making a mention of Shiv Sena’s Sanjay Raut as well.

The NCP chief, meanwhile, took a swipe at the BJP government, saying that those who want to suppress the people by using agencies like the ED will not be successful in Maharashtra. “I would like to thank all progressive-minded people who have stood up against tyranny,” Pawar said. He added that he would visit the ED office whenever he is called for investigation.

Pawar said that he would now embark on a tour of the flood-affected regions of Pune district, which have been lashed by heavy rain.

Ajit Pawar quits as NCP legislator, goes incommunicado

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, PUNE, SEPTEMBER 27

FIVE-TIME NCP MLA and nephew of Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar resigned as the Baramati legislator on Friday.

Even as there was speculation about Ajit’s move, Pawar claimed that his nephew — who has since gone incommunicado — may have resigned because he was hurt that the NCP chief has been named in the ED case related to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam.

Ajit rang up Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Haribhau Bagde around 5.40 pm, informing him that he had submitted his resignation to the Speaker’s office in Mumbai and requested Bagde to immediately accept it.

“Overwhelmed to see the huge gathering in Mumbai today, in support of @PawarSpeaks. Heartfelt thanks to @NCPspeaks officials, party workers & also our opponents who stood up for the truth in spite of our differences. I am sure this belief in Pawar Saheb will never fade,” was Ajit’s last message on Twitter before he went incommunicado.

The news of the resignation rattled the NCP, which had been looking at a possible revival of the party after the ED’s notice to Pawar. The NCP chief, while speaking to mediapersons in



Ajit Pawar

Pune, said: “I have not been able to directly speak to him (Ajit) after I got to know about his decision. He did not consult me... I feel he could not tolerate that I was booked.”

Pawar said that Ajit told his son Parth that politics has stooped to the lowest level. “He told his sons that it was better to stay away from politics...”

The NCP chief, however, denied any family conflict and claimed that he had the last word in the Pawar clan.

Over the last few years, there has been speculation over who would take control of the NCP after Pawar. At 79, Pawar remains the party’s binding force. While Ajit earlier had been groomed to eventually take over charge, there is a strong lobby within the party that does not agree with his brusque style of functioning.

There had also been speculation that the entry of Rohit Pawar, the grand nephew of the NCP chief, had made Ajit jittery.



Mani C Kappan (centre) after his victory in Pala.

Ruling LDF wins Pala constituency, ends 54-yr hold of Kerala Congress (M)

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE RULING LDF won the bypoll for the Pala Assembly seat on Friday, ending the five-decade supremacy of the Kerala Congress (M) in the constituency.

Over 71 per cent voters had registered their ballot in the bypoll, conducted on September 23, which was necessitated following the death of sitting legislator K M Mani — the founder-chief of the Kerala Congress (M) — in April.

Mani had held the seat uninterruptedly for 54 years till his death.

Mani C Kappan of the NCP — an ally of the CPI(M) in Kerala — defeated Mani loyalist Jose Tom, who had to fight the election as an Independent candidate after party chairman P J Joseph refused to allot him the party’s official symbol. BJP candidate N Hari came third.

Kappan told reporters, “This is a victory of the LDF. This is an approval of the LDF government’s policies and development projects.”

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the mandate is a recognition for the government and its pro-people policies.

Senior Kerala Congress (M) leader Jose K Mani — the son of K M Mani — promised that his party will rectify its mistakes.

PCC chief Mullappally Ramachandran attributed the victory of the LDF to the internal problems within the Kerala Congress (M), currently locked in a factional feud

“We accept the mandate of the people. We will examine the reasons for the defeat. Kerala Congress (M) and the UDF will rectify its mistakes and win back confidence of the people. Politics is not about fearing defeat and brimming in confidence in a victory,” he said.

Congress state president Mullappally Ramachandran attributed the victory of the LDF to the internal problems within the Kerala Congress (M) — the party is currently locked in a factional feud between Jose K Mani and party chairman Joseph. The defeat in its stronghold is likely to trigger a fresh spell of internal squabbling in the party, which is a prominent ally of Congress in central Kerala.

The BJP, meanwhile, has suffered a big dent in its vote-share. The saffron party, which surprised many by getting over 24,000 votes in the 2016 Assembly election, lost nearly 6,500 votes in the bypolls.

ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

Cong wins Dantewada bypolls, makes it 12 out of 12 in Bastar

DIPANKAR GHOSE
RAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 27

CONGRESS CANDIDATE Devti Karma defeated Ojaswi Mandavi of the BJP by a margin of over 11,000 votes in the bypolls for Dantewada Assembly seat. The votes were counted on Friday, four days after Monday’s polling.

The victory means the Congress now holds all 12 Assembly seats in the Bastar region, and the party’s tally in goes up to 69 seats in the 90-member House.

The bypolls were necessitated due to the death of BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi in a Maoist attack in April. With this defeat, the saffron party’s tally goes down to 14 seats in the Assembly.

The by-election was billed as an electoral battle not just between the Congress and the BJP but also between wives of two leaders killed in Maoist attacks. While BJP candidate Ojaswi Mandavi is wife of Bhima Mandavi, Devti Karma’s husband Mahendra Karma was killed in a Maoist attack in 2013.

After 20 rounds of counting, Devti Karma won 50,028 votes, or 43.65 per cent of the votes polled, according to official



Devti Karma (in blue) along with PCC chief Mohan Markam (in yellow) and her supporters.

Election Commission (EC); Mandavi polled 38,836 votes (33.89 per cent). Bhimsen Mandavi of CPI finished a distant third with 6 per cent of votes.

Congress chief spokesperson Shailesh Nitin Trivedi said the victory is a result of constructive policies of the Bhupesh Baghel government and hard work of state Congress chief Mohan Markam, for whom this was the first election after assuming charge of the state unit. The result was made possible also by decisions such as return of land in Lohandiguda, increase in bonuses for tendu leaves and paddy.

Chief Minister Baghel tweeted, “By giving us their blessings, the people have shown faith in work done towards building a new Chhattisgarh in Dantewada bypoll. This victory is also a win for the dreams of the late Mahendra Karma. Congratulations and good wishes to Shrimati Devti Karma.”

While congratulating Devti Karma on her victory, former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Raman Singh accused the Congress-led state government of misusing power, and said the party will now concentrate on bypolls for Chitrakote, scheduled on October 21.

BJP’s Yuvraj Singh wins Hamirpur bypoll, SP second

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 27

THE BJP’S Yuvraj Singh won the Hamirpur Assembly bypoll on Friday by a margin of 17,867 votes. While SP candidate Manoj Kumar Prajapati finished second, the BSP’s Naushad Ali came third. The Congress’s Hardeepak Nishad ended at the fourth spot.

While the BJP nominee got 38.55 per cent votes, the vote-share for the SP candidate was 29.29 per cent.

The Hamirpur Assembly seat fell vacant following the conviction of BJP MLA Ashok Kumar Chandel in April this year in a 22-year-old murder case.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral



Yuvraj Singh got 38.55 per cent votes

Officer (CEO) Ajay Kumar Shukla told *The Indian Express* that counting of votes was peaceful.

After the BJP’s victory, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated winning candidate Yuvraj Singh and tweeted, “The victory in the bypoll shows that

the confidence of the people in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s resolve of ‘sabka saath, sabka vikas’ has increased.”

In another tweet, he wrote, “The credit for this victory also goes to the hard work of our party workers in Hamirpur. I would also like to thank the voters for continuing to show confidence in the BJP. A new Uttar Pradesh is emerging with the pledge for public welfare and the identity of the new Uttar Pradesh will be development.”

In the 2017 Vidhan Sabha polls, the seat was won by the BJP’s Ashok Kumar Chandel. SP’s Prajapati had finished second and BSP’s Sanjeev Kumar a close third. The Congress had allied with the SP and had not fielded a candidate.

BJP victorious in Badharghat seat in Tripura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE BHARATIYA Janata Party won the by-election to Badharghat (SC) Assembly constituency in Tripura on Friday.

BJP’s Mimi Majumder defeated her nearest rival, Communist Party of India (Marxist)’s Bulti Biswas, by 5,276 votes.

Congress nominee Ratan Chandra Das secured the third place with 9,105 votes.

The seat fell vacant due to the death of BJP MLA Dilip Sarkar in April this year.

Both the BJP and the CPI(M) got fewer votes in comparison to the Assembly elections.

INX MEDIA CASE

CBI opposes ‘flight risk’ Chidambaram’s bail plea in Delhi HC

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE CBI on Friday urged the Delhi High Court to not grant bail to former Union minister P Chidambaram in the INX Media corruption case and asked that he be kept in custody during the trial, referring to the senior Congress leader as a “flight risk”.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Chidambaram, opposed the CBI’s contention, saying, “Offences of cheating and criminal conspiracy alleged against Mr Chidambaram are not grave in nature and he should be released on bail.” The senior counsel submitted that the offences for which Chidambaram has been booked carry only a punishment of up to seven years’ imprisonment.

However, Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, countered their claim and said that gravity of offence is not decided by the punishment prescribed but the impact it has on the society. “He is a flight risk because (as) he is accused of a serious offence, he knows that conviction is likely and he has the resources to sustain himself in another country indefinitely,” Mehta told the court.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait reserved his order in Chidambaram’s bail petition after hearing arguments from both sides.

Probing charges of corruption in the INX Media case, the CBI had arrested Chidambaram on August 21. The next day he was later remanded in CBI custody for

15 days, and is currently in judicial custody at Tihar jail till October 3. In the case, the remaining accused, including his son Karti Chidambaram, are either on anticipatory bail or regular bail.

Referring to Karti’s relief in the matter, SG Mehta on Friday argued that Chidambaram was not entitled for the same, as “corruption by a public officials breach the public trust and harm the financial stability of the country”.

Mehta argued that many documents were recovered and statements have been recorded which directly link the criminal conspiracy of illegal gratification to the petitioner (Chidambaram) and co-conspirator, his son.

Sibal informed that he was instructed by Chidambaram to clarify that he has never met INX Media co-owner Indrani Mukerjea, the approver in the case. He said that Chidambaram has “no recollection” of meeting a delegation of INX Media in his office in March 2007 but would nonetheless rely on the entries in the visitors’ book to confirm such a meeting.

To this, Mehta claimed that the “visitors’ book has been destroyed due to lapse of time.” “However, as per the entries of Oberoi Hotel, New Delhi, where Peter and Indrani (Mukerjea) stayed from March 6-9, 2007, an internal vehicle of the hotel was used by the two to visit the office of the then Finance Minister on March 9, 2007,” the SG said. He claimed Indrani said she and Peter met Chidambaram at his North Block office, who asked them to meet his son and suggested that they help him in his business.



A security man stands guard at Srinagar's Residency Road. PTI

Fresh restrictions in Kashmir

Srinagar: Fresh restrictions were reimposed in several parts of Kashmir on Friday as authorities feared protests in view of congregational prayers.

Officials in Srinagar said there was no major law and order problem in the Valley and the situation was peaceful.

Kashmir on Friday observed a complete shutdown for the 54th day, with public transport off the roads and business establishments shut.

A senior official said that restrictions were imposed in the old city in Srinagar and authorities didn’t allow Friday prayers in Grand Jamia Mosque in Srinagar.

In the morning, the authorities placed concertina wire and prevented public movement in old city. By evening, as the situation was peaceful, the security forces eased restrictions in the areas where restrictions were reimposed. **ENS**

9 MONTHS AFTER J&K PANCHAYAT POLLS, WORK YET TO BEGIN

Panches, sarpanches stay put in hotels, fear visiting villages

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 27

IN SEPTEMBER last year, Abdul Rashid Dar was picked up by militants from his home at Pinglish Tral in Pulwama district. While a group beat him up, another filmed a video that went viral. In the video, the militants asked Dar to stay away from elections and force his son, a special police officer (SPO), to resign. Dar agreed and apologised.

Two months later, Dar was the only sarpanch from his panchayat halqa (each panchayat halqa includes 8-10 wards) to contest the panchayat polls held in Jammu and Kashmir after three years. But there was no contest, he was elected unopposed.

For nine months, Dar has been putting up in a hotel in

Srinagar that is home to some 180 panches and sarpanches from various parts of the Valley.

Now that the government has issued notification for the Block Development Council (BDC) polls in the state — for the first time in its history — Dar calls it a “farce”.

“I put my life on the line by defying militant threats and contesting polls. How will they conduct BDC elections when most panch and sarpanch seats are vacant? Why don’t they conduct bypolls for the panchayats first?” says Dar.

Official figures reveal that 61% of panch wards in the Valley are vacant. Of 18,833 panch wards, panches have been elected only in 7,596 wards. The government, however, has notified only 7,308 panches, since in the balance 288 panchayats, only one panch was elected. Similarly 45 per cent sarpanch wards too are vacant. Of

the 2,375 sarpanch wards in the Valley, 1,558 have been elected and only 1,311 notified.

In fact, most panches and sarpanches have been elected without a contest. Of the 7,596 panches elected in the Valley, more than 3,500 have been elected unopposed. Among sarpanches, 530 were elected unopposed out of the 1,558 elected.

Those elected also feel deceived. “It has been nine months, but I haven’t spent a single rupee. This is true for most of us,” says Mehraj-ud-din Rather, a panch from Baramulla district. Like Dar, he is also staying in a Srinagar hotel. “Money has come into the accounts of some of us, but nothing has been utilised,” he says.

A senior official of the Rural Development Department agrees. “The process of approval is multi-tier. After consultation of

panch and sarpanch, the panchayat submits a plan to BDO (Block Development Officer). After collecting the plans from his block, the BDO forwards it to District Planning Officer, who forwards it to the District Development Commissioner for final approval,” he says. “Execution of work has started in some panchayats, around 10%,” said a senior official.

Government officials said a big portion of the money has already been released for the panchayats. “Under the 14th Finance Commission, we have earmarked Rs 3,000 crore for the panchayats,” Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development, Sheetal Nanda told *The Indian Express*. “Of this, we have already released Rs 1,300 crore to the panchayats.”

Hamza Mir, a 70-year-old panch from Batagund in Tral, says his work plan has been approved

— a rare case — but work is yet to begin. “I can’t go to my village to get the work executed,” he says, sitting in the Srinagar hotel. “I can go if only I am provided security.”

For the government, security to panches and sarpanches is becoming a headache. Hence, it has chosen to accommodate hundreds in hotels in Srinagar.

In one hotel in Srinagar, 180 panches and sarpanches from Baramulla, Kupwara, Budgam and Pulwama are staying for nine months. Another hotel in high-security Indira Nagar, Srinagar, has been reserved for migrant Pandit panches and sarpanches from south Kashmir.

“We go to our block office once a week or fortnight. Usually the concerned official is absent that day,” says Rather, a panch from Krankshivan village of Sopore. “How can we follow our

cases from a hotel 50 km away?”

The government has not yet opened joint bank accounts for the panchayats. An official of the Rural Development Department says the panchayats have to make separate bank accounts for each scheme they conceive. A sarpanch and a panchayat secretary — a government employee — are joint account holders.

In panchayats that are without a panch and sarpanch, the government has appointed administrators — gazetted officers from any government department other than the Rural Development Department — to run them. “In simpler terms, half the Valley would be run by the administrators as was done before the panchayat polls,” says a Rural Development Department official.

**FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com**



NORTH

16 killed, 5 injured as mini bus collides with jeep in Jodhpur

Jaipur: At least 16 people were killed and five injured after a collision between two vehicles in Jodhpur on Friday, police said. The accident, between a Bolero and a mini bus took place in Balesar, about 70 km west of the district headquarters, as per Balesar SHO Devendra Singh. “The accident happened after the mini

bus’ front tyre, of the driver side, burst. It then veered to the wrong side of the road and crashed into the Bolero,” Singh said. The bus was allegedly moving at high speed, which led to a high number of casualties upon collision. Local residents reached the spot and took the injured to a hospital in Balesar. **ENS**



An aerial display during an air show in Vadodara on Friday. The Indian Air Force held the show ahead of the 87th Air Force Day celebrations on October 8. *Javed Raja*

EAST

HC bans animal sacrifice in all Tripura temples

Agartala: The Tripura High Court on Friday banned the sacrifice of animals or birds for religious reasons in all temples in the state. A division bench of Chief Justice Sanjoy Karol and Justice Arindam Lodh pronounced the order after hearing a PIL. “No person, including the State, shall be allowed to sac-

riﬁce any animal/bird within the precincts of any of the temples within the State of Tripura,” the order said. The bench directed all the district magistrates and SPs of the state to ensure implementation. It also directed the chief secretary to install CCTV cameras at two major temples of the state. **PTI**

WEST

Goa govt bans single-use plastic in its offices from Oct 2

Panaji: The Goa government has imposed a ban on the use of single-use plastic in its offices from October 2. In a circular issued on September 25, Shripad Arlekar, Under secretary of the General Administration Department, said, “The Government of Goa has decided to ban the use of single-use plastic water bottles, glasses, plates, etc,

in government offices, can- teens, meetings and func- tions from October 2, 2019.” Arlekar stated that the directive has been issued follow- ing the approval of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Last month, the Assembly passed a Bill banning manu- facture, sale and use of single-use plastic items and carry bags. **PTI**

SOUTH

Six arrested for irregularities in ESIC medicine purchases

Hyderabad: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested the director and joint director of the Insurance Medical Services of the Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in Hyderabad, along with six others, for alleged irregularities in supply of medicines in the state. The ESIC officials ac-

cused allegedly procured medicines worth several crore from unauthorised firms or non-rate contract firms by quoting higher rates. Officials said there were irregularities in the supply of medicines, surgical kits, and medical equipment to all ESI hospitals in the state. The six were produced in court. **ENS**

BABRI DEMOLITION CASE

Immunity gone, charges framed against Kalyan Singh

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 27

DAYS AFTER Kalyan Singh lost immunity against prosecution following the end of his tenure as Rajasthan Governor on September 3, charges were framed against the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Friday in the case relating to the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. The incident took place when he was CM.

The special court (Ayodhya Prakaran) in Lucknow framed the charges after Kalyan Singh, who joined the BJP again on September 9, appeared before it following summons issued on September 21.

The court granted him bail on a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh, and directed that his file be separated from other accused. The hearing will resume Saturday.

Defence counsel K K Mishra said: “Kalyan Singh appeared in court of Special Judge S K Yadav today following a notice issued against him. The court framed charges against him and later granted him bail on a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh. The court also directed to separate his file from other accused.”

Charges against Kalyan Singh, Mishra said, have been framed under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief), all sections read with IPC 120B (criminal conspiracy). “Kalyan Singh is among 13 who were dropped from the case following the High Court order. The Supreme Court, in its order dated 19 April, 2017, ordered restoration of charges against them. The court exempted Kalyan Singh from prosecution on account of the constitutional immunity he was then enjoying as Governor,” Mishra said.

Six of the 13 people have since died. Charges against Kalyan Singh, Mishra said, have been framed under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration), 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class), 295A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief), all sections read with IPC 120B (criminal conspiracy). “Kalyan Singh is among 13 who were dropped from the case following the High Court order. The Supreme Court, in its order dated 19 April, 2017, ordered restoration of charges against them. The court exempted Kalyan Singh from prosecution on account of the constitutional immunity he was then enjoying as Governor,” Mishra said.



Former UP chief minister Kalyan Singh at the court in Lucknow on Friday. *Vishal Srivastav*

SC: ASI report not just an opinion, can’t be rejected

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE SUPREME Court on Friday said the report of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI), which excavated the disputed site in Ayodhya, was “not just an opinion” and “can’t be rejected”, but added it is aware that both Hindu and Muslim sides had based their case on “inferences” in the absence of eyewitness.

Responding to senior advocate Meenakshi Arora’s contention that the ASI’s report was “hypothetical” and “based on inferences”, Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is part of the five-judge Constitution bench hearing appeals against the September 30, 2010 verdict of Allahabad High Court, said when such inference has been drawn by experts on the basis of data keeping in mind the context and narrative, “it can’t be rejected”.

But, he added, this is “consistent with the fact that different interpretations may be possible”.

The bench, headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi, also comprises Justices S A Bobde, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer.

The ASI report had concluded that there was a massive structure dating back many centuries beneath the ground where the



Babri Masjid stood, before it was demolished. Justice Nazeer said the report of the Commissioner followed an inquiry, as laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure. “You have to give more weightage to the report... because it’s nothing but the delegated position of a judge,” Justice Nazeer said, adding that it was “not just an opinion”.

Arora had said that the report was merely “an opinion” and is thus “weak evidence”. The counsel for the mosque side said the report may have come after an inquiry but was still only an opinion, and must be tested under the Evidence Act.

Justice Bobde said the bench is “conscious that both sides are relying on inference”, as there was no eyewitness. “The question is whether they are valid or not vis-a-vis reasonable probability.... We have to see which of this is more valid...,” he said.

Arora said the ASI report is

“unethical practice”.

ICMR’s 2017 guidelines cap age limit for ART at 45 for women and 50 for men. The Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Regulation) Bill, which is yet to be passed by Parliament, also caps age limit at 45 for women who undergo IVF.

Dr S Uma Shankar, who helped the couple conceive, said several medical tests were conducted last year, including cardiac tests, to assess Erramatti’s medical condition. “She was found fit to bear a child. All test results were normal. Her pregnancy had no complications,” he said.

An ICMR official, however,



Erramatti Mangayamma is the oldest in the world to give birth through IVF

practice, has asked the clinic to explain why it performed IVF for a senior citizen, thereby risking her life, and why its registration should not be cancelled for this

TABASSUM
BARNAGARWALA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE INDIAN Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued a notice of closure to Ahalya IVF clinic, based in Andhra Pradesh’s Guntur, for using assisted reproductive technique (ART) for a 74-year-old woman, who delivered twins on September 5.

Erramatti Mangayamma is the oldest in the world to give birth through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). In its notice, issued last week, ICMR, the apex agency that frames policies on biomedical

said: “We expect ART clinics to self-regulate and follow best practices in absence of a law. We have asked the clinic to explain their decision. If this act is found unethical, their registration number will be cancelled.”

The cancellation of registration, though, may not act as a deterrent or affect working of the clinic, as the country lacks a law to regulate the ART industry. “This is a grey area. We sensitise experts to follow ICMR guidelines and adopt ethical practices,” Dr Jaideep Malhotra, president of Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction, said.

Erramatti and husband E Raja



Heavy rain lashes Lucknow on Friday. The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted normal to heavy rainfall across the state for the next 2-3 days. *Vishal Srivastav*

44 killed, 12 injured in rain-related incidents across UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 27

AT LEAST 44 people were killed and 12 people were injured in rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh since Thursday.

Incessant rain over the past two days across parts of the state has also resulted in the deaths of 17 animals and caused damage to some 161 houses.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted normal to heavy rainfall across the state for the next two to three days.

Administrations of Lucknow, Amethi, Hardoi and several others districts have announced the closure of schools on Saturday.

According to a statement issued by the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), most of the deaths reported were caused when houses collapsed.

“Forty-four people have died in rain-related incidents of house and wall collapse, snake bites, drowning and lightning in the state since Thursday (past 24 hours),” a report from the relief commissioner’s office said.

Six deaths each were reported in Pratapgarh and Raebareli, five in Amethi, four each in Chandauli and Varanasi, three each in Prayagraj, Barabanki and Mahoba, two in Ambedkar Nagar, and one each in Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Sonbhadra, Ayodhya, Saharanpur, Jaunpur, Kaushambi and Azamgarh, officials said.

The SDMA statement said

that three rivers — Sharda (Lakhimpur Kheri), Ghaghara (Barabanki) and Ganga (Ghazipur and Ballia) — were flowing near the danger level.

Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner G S Priyadarshi, however, said that “there is no threat of floods for now”.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the divisional commissioners and the district magistrates to take all measures and extend immediate relief to those affected, an official said.

“The chief minister has asked the officials to extend a monetary help of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed and arrange treatment for the injured. The chief minister has also asked the officials concerned to visit the areas which have been affected by rains and are witnessing flood-like situation. He also said waterlogging should be addressed immediately,” the official said.

“If there is waterlogging somewhere, ensure immediate relief and make arrangements to clear it. Officials should personally visit areas affected by rain,” an official statement quoting the CM’s instructions to all district officials said.

Local Meteorological Department Director J P Gupta said southern Uttar Pradesh will receive heavy rainfall in the next two-three days. “The rest of the state will receive normal rainfall. Rainfall in Lucknow and adjoining areas is likely to subside in the coming days,” said Gupta.

-WITH PTI INPUTS

Assam: Gorkha groups protest against NRC exclusions

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 27

FOUR ORGANISATIONS representing the Gorkha community in Assam came together on Friday to stage a protest and submit a memorandum to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal regarding the exclusion of members of the community from the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The All Assam Gorkha Students’ Union, the Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha, the All Assam Gorkha Sammelan (AAGS) and the Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) staged a protest in Guwahati, announcing that under no circumstances would Gorkha people excluded from the final NRC approach the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) to appeal against their exclusion.

They cited a 2018 Ministry of Home Affairs order saying that Gorkhas living in India cannot be referred to FTs in Assam.

Durga Khatiwada, president of the Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha and a Sahitya Akademi award winner, said, “Gorkha people will not go to FTs. We are indigenous people and we cannot be dragged to FTs. There is a clear MHA order to this effect... Family members of a Gorkha freedom fighter are among the 19 lakh excluded people...”

Nanda Kirati Dewan, national secretary (youth affairs) of the BGP, said, “The state government has to respect and validate the MHA order. Gorkhas will not go to FTs ...”

RURAL SANITATION STRATEGY RELEASED

Govt lays roadmap to deal with open defecation, sanitation issues

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

JAL SHAKTI Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday released the Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029), which lays the roadmap for ODF Plus — the ministry’s next step in dealing with open defecation and sanitation issues in the country.

Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Parameswaran Iyer on Friday said the framework for the rural sanitation programme had been drawn up and would be sent to the Union Cabinet shortly for approval.

The main thrust of the strategy is that while the construction and maintenance of toilets for rural households will con-

tinue, the ministry will take the programme a step further and focus on waste water and solid waste treatment at the village and panchayat level in phase II.

“The existing pattern for toilets will continue, including the financial module of 60:40. In hill states, this will be 90:10. But having achieved our target of providing toilets to rural households, the government will now focus on the gram panchayat,” said Iyer.

According to the strategy, the government has, over the past five years, achieved a 100 per cent coverage of all rural households in construction of toilets from 38 per cent when it began in 2014. “We have kept room for households that we may have missed. There is a financial pro-



Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat with fashion designer Ritu Beri at a ‘Say No To Plastic’ event in New Delhi on Friday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

vision for the construction of toilets to continue. Also, for new homes being constructed. According to our estimates,

there are likely to be 30 lakh new toilets constructed in the country annually,” said Additional Secretary Arun Baroka.



Mukul Roy

Narada case: Mukul skips CBI date

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 27

CITING “PREOCCUPATIONS”, BJP leader Mukul Roy did not appear before the CBI on Friday in connection with the Narada sting operation case. Sources said Roy sent one of his representatives to convey the message and sought time from the agency. The CBI sent another notice, asking Roy to appear Saturday, sources added.

According to sources, CBI officials wanted to speak to Roy before the five-day custody of IPS officer S M H Mirza, who was arrested on Thursday, ends on September 30.

“I could not appear before the agency today because of my pre-occupations, which I have informed them in writing. I will be busy till 3 pm tomorrow due to party work, but if they ask me to visit after that, I will go. I have always said I will cooperate with the CBI,” said the former Railway minister.

TMC has accused the agency of being “unfair and politically motivated”. “Issuing summons to him (Roy) does not prove anything,” said TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee. “Time will prove if they are fair or it is just a gimmick,” he said.

So far, the CBI has arrested only Mirza in connection with the case.

Tapes of the the sting operation surfaced before the 2016 West Bengal Assembly polls. In the footage, people resembling senior TMC leaders were seen accepting money from representatives of a fictitious company. The sting was conducted by Mathew Samuels of Narada News.

Roy, a founder member of the TMC, joined the BJP in 2017. It has been alleged that Roy sent Samuel to Mirza, then Burdwan SP. Mirza is also heard talking to someone over the phone in the tapes, but has not revealed who was on the other side of the phone.

Roy has claimed that no footage showed him receiving money.

CBI books FSL dy director, senior officer for false DNA report to help rape accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE CBI has lodged a case of corruption, conspiracy and abuse of official position against A K Shrivastava, former deputy director of Forensics Science Laboratory (FSL), Rohini, as well as senior scientific officer L Babyto Devi for allegedly preparing false DNA reports to help the accused in three sexual assault cases registered in Delhi.

The three cases in question, which were probed by Delhi Police, were the Badarpur rape case (2013), the Samaypur Badli rape case (2012) and the unnatural sex case registered at the Mahindra Park police station in 2012.

According to the CBI FIR, the two officers prepared incorrect records in the three cases with an intent to protect the accused. The agency has further alleged that an inquiry has prima facie established that reports and opinion given by Shrivastava and Devi in the cases are inconsistent with reports given subsequently by experts of FSL, Rohini and experts of Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) CBI, New Delhi.

“It appears that L Babyto Devi and A K Shrivastava either have deliberately or dishonestly given false or incorrect reports by abusing their official position with object to give undue benefit to accused persons of above mentioned cases,” the CBI FIR alleged.

In the Badarpur case, Devi had said DNA of the accused found on his undergarments did not match the DNA collected from the victim, which was found incorrect during a review by FSL experts and CFSL. In the unnatural sex case, DNA profile of the accused developed by Devi and Shrivastava differed, which is scientifically not possible. In the Samaypur Badli case too, DNA profile developed by Shrivastava and CFSL experts was different, making the report “suspicious”, the CBI alleged.

MARADU FLATS FACE DEMOLITION

SC asks Kerala to proceed, pay interim relief of Rs 25 lakh to each flat owner

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE SUPREME Court on Friday asked Kerala government to proceed with the demolition of flats built in violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms at Maradu in Ernakulam district. This came after the state gave an undertaking that the process will be completed in 138 days.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and S Ravindra Bhat also directed the state to pay an interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh each to the affected flat owners and said the state can recover this from whoever is found responsible for the illegal constructions.

The court awarded the compensation following upon the precedent set in the case of Kant Enclave in Faridabad which was ordered to be demolished. “We can’t leave them...You have to pay something. They need shelter too,” Justice Mishra told senior advocate Harish Salve, who appeared for the state’s Chief Secretary Tom Jose.

The top court had on September 11, 2018, held that the land on which Kant Enclave in Faridabad stood was forest land and ordered demolition of all construction there carried out after August 18, 1992. It had also asked the builder, R Kant & Co, to refund the investment made by people who got land from it, with interest at the rate of 18 per cent.

On Friday, the bench said the “rest (of the amount) will depend on each case”.

The court rejected the prayer by residents that they should not be evicted till they receive the interim compensation.

At the outset, Salve submitted the affidavit containing the timeline for demolition. He also wondered if the demolition was a reasonable option considering its impact on environment and if the flats could be vacated instead. “Should never have been built...But are we compounding the problem by demolition,” he submitted.

But the bench did not relent. “It has to be...If you can’t, we will ask for costs and ask somebody else to,” said Justice Mishra, adding that “government is not

willing to” carry out the demolition.

Justice Mishra said “our primary concern is no such violation in coastal zones”. The bench then asked Salve what the state’s proposal was. Salve said the state had drawn up an “action plan” under which demolition will be completed in 138 days.

“What about the compensation?” asked Justice Mishra.

Justice Bhat then pointed out that there was the example of compensation paid to residents of Kant Enclave. The bench inquired about the price of apartments. A counsel appearing for some residents said it was about Rs 1 crore now and Rs 39 lakh at the time of purchase about eight years back.

Salve suggested that the court set up a commission which will look into the aspects of valuation etc.

The senior counsel urged the court to also make the builders/promoters parties, saying they should also suffer the legal consequences. Agreeing, the court issued them notices and asked the state to provide their details.

Salve told the court that some residents had filed cheating cases against the builders and they should go on separately as the builders may otherwise cite it to deny compensation. The bench clarified that those cases will run separately.

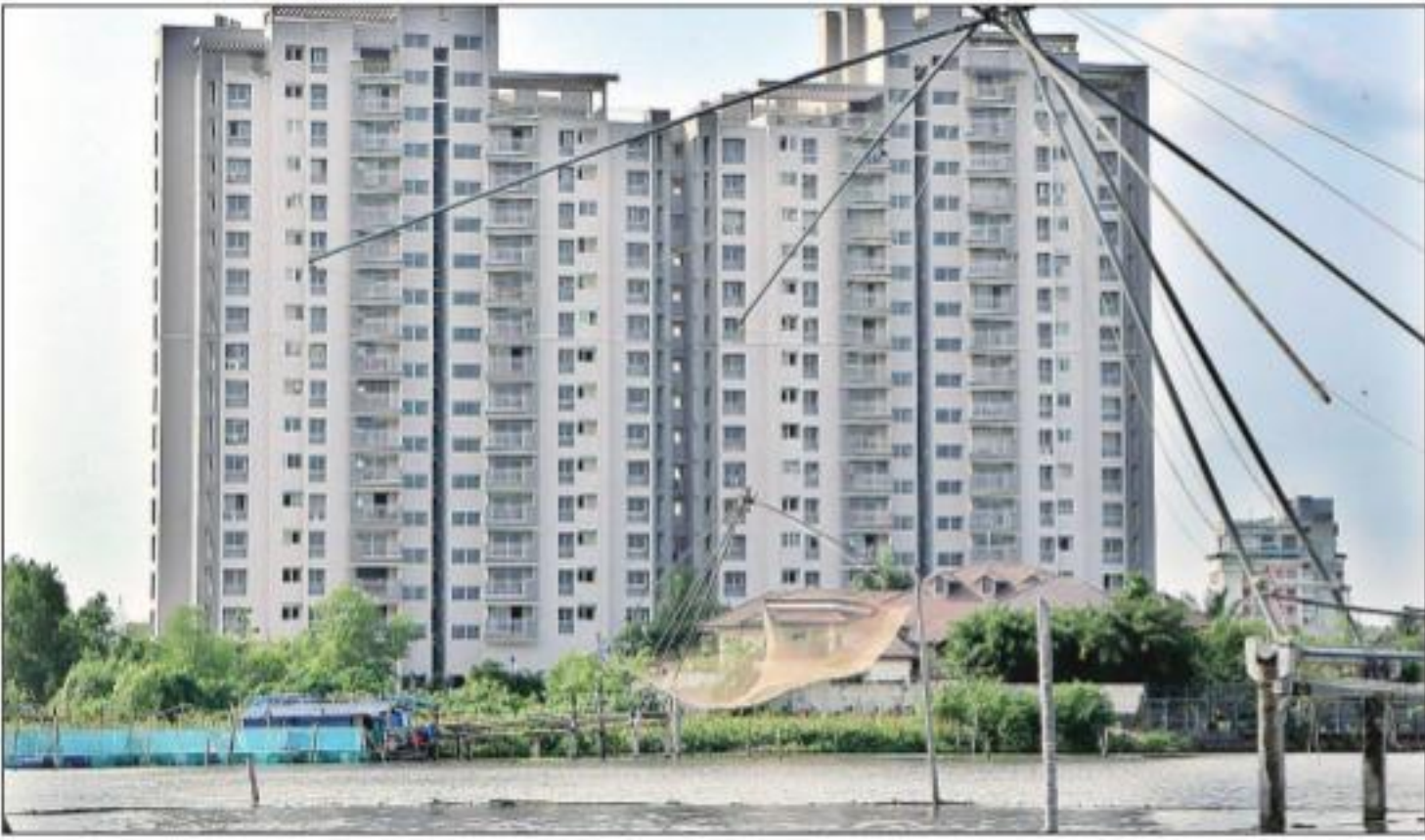
Justice Mishra said some panchayat and municipality officials may also have been responsible and asked, “Should we hold them responsible?”.

Salve said somebody will have to first see what had happened. The municipality will say there was a central order which was stayed by the High Court and so we allowed, he added.

The senior counsel requested the court to call for a report, but the bench refused and said, “We already called for a report and can’t examine that again.”

Fixing the matter for hearing next on October 25, the court said it will appoint a retired judge to look into the other aspects of the demolition.

The state suggested a three-member committee, but the bench said one judge was enough and asked the Chief Secretary to suggest names.



There are 343 units in the four apartment complexes which face demolition. Express

Flat owners welcome order on compensation, builders worried

SHAJU PHILIP
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 27

FLAT OWNERS at Maradu on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court order that they be paid interim compensation, but the builders are worried about the directive that the damages be recovered from them.

The apex court has ordered Kerala government to pay interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh to each flat owner within four weeks. The court stated that the amount should be recovered from builders. The court had earlier ordered that four apartments constructed in violation of CRZ norms be razed and served an ultimatum to the state government to execute this in a time-bound manner.

Maradu Home Protection Samithi, an organisation of 350-odd flat owners, welcomed the order. Its chairman Advocate Shamsudeen Karunagappally said, “We are ready to take compensation, but it should be on a par with the current market price of our flats. Also, there should be an undertaking from the government that it would guarantee that the builders pay the entire cost of our flats in a time-bound manner.”

He said the government should restore supply of water and power, which have been snapped in a bid to flush out the residents. “Let the supplies be reinstated. We should be satisfied with alternative arrangements the government is making for us. We will not let authorities dump us somewhere. Till we are convinced about the alternative arrangements, we will not move out,” he said.

The Samithi said that since the rehabilitation exercise would cost the state government heavily, all political parties should think about bringing in a legislation to stall the demolition.

There are 343 units in the four apartment complexes which face demolition. If the compensation is provided on market rates, it would cost Rs 300 to Rs 350 crore, according to industry sources.

One of the builders said, “We have been victimised for faults of government officials and the coastal management authority. The court hasn’t heard us. The controversy has affected not only our business but also the real estate sector. The directive to pay compensation would wipe us out.”

The police have registered cases against three builders and frozen their accounts following

complaints from residents. Sources said even resale of flats in other apartments constructed by the four builders is now difficult. “We have to pay our staff. If we can’t operate bank accounts, how will we run the business,” a builder said.

Of the builders, three are based in Kochi and one in Chennai. Jain Constructions and Housing, based in Chennai, built Jain Coral Cove. The firm has been in the construction sector since 1987 and has built 180-odd residential projects in South India. Ashok Mehta is its chairman.

Holy Faith Builders And Developers Private Limited in Kochi began operations in 2005. Its Holy Faith H2O is identified for demolition. Managing Director Sany Francis has stakes in companies in plantations, tourism and finance sectors. Kochi-based Alfa Ventures built the Alfa Serene. The firm has stakes in apartments and commercial projects mainly in Kochi and is headed by Paul Raj.

KP Varkey and VS Builders are builders of Golden Kayalarom. Founded in 2003, the group has nine apartment and commercial projects in Kerala. It has sister concerns in gold, hotel, timber and transport sectors. KV Jose is managing director of the firm.

Tamil Nadu police investigate Mumbai racket in NEET impersonation case

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 27

INVESTIGATION BY Tamil Nadu CB-CID into a case in which a Mumbai student allegedly impersonated and took the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for medical admission on behalf of a candidate from Tamil Nadu is leading to a Mumbai-based racket and a transaction of “not less than Rs 20 lakh”, it is learnt.

Main accused Udit Surya and his father, Dr K S Venkitesh, a senior government doctor at Stanley Medical College in Chennai, had allegedly hired a person to write the exam for Surya this year.

While an anonymous complaint about the impersonation and Surya’s admission in Theni Medical College led to their arrest, Tamil Nadu CB-CID will soon publish the photograph of the suspected Mumbai student who took the test for Surya, sources said.

The difference between the Mumbai student’s photograph in NEET examination hall ticket and mark cards and Surya’s address and his photograph used for admission in Theni Medical College had helped the police ascertain there was a case of impersonation.

An officer who is part of the probe team said Surya and Venkitesh claim to have approached the Mumbai student, whose identity has not been ascertained yet, through touts. “A NEET coaching centre in Chennai led them to touts, as it was evident that Surya was unlikely to clear NEET due to his poor performance in previous attempts and coaching,” the officer said. “They have paid not less than Rs 20 lakh to touts and the student who wrote the exam. We have evidence of his father’s fre-

MP HONEYTRAP CASE

Special DG accuses DGP of trying to tarnish his image

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 27

AMID SPECULATION over names of people involved in the alleged honeytrap racket that has dominated headlines in Madhya Pradesh, Special DG Purushottam Sharma has accused the state’s topmost police officer, DGP V K Singh, of resorting to a “low-level” campaign to defame him.

Three days ago, Singh asked Sharma to explain why a flat had been rented for the cyber cell in Ghaziabad without the knowledge or permission from police headquarters. The flat has now been vacated. The notice was issued amid media reports that a flat rented by an IPS officer near Delhi had been used by people involved in the alleged racket.

The matter came to light recently in Indore, where an engineer with Indore Municipal Corporation approached the police with a complaint that he was being blackmailed with a sex clip.

Sharma, who is attending a conference organised by the Kerala government at Thiruvananthapuram, told *The Indian Express* that he got to know about the notice and the DGP’s statement — given to a local newspaper — on Thursday. He said he was shocked to learn that the news clippings had been deliberately circulated in police headquarters and on social media to tarnish his image.

quent Mumbai trips during the period and cash withdrawals.”

However, the officer said, so far no suspected cash transaction through their bank account has emerged.

The probe is also looking at the role of an official at Madurai Medical College who handled Surya’s admission. “He allegedly made some compromises in the initial probe to protect Surya even after the impersonation came to light,” the officer said. “He will soon be called for a detailed interrogation.”

Another officer with knowledge of Surya and his father’s interrogation said they have confessed to the crime, and the confessions were recorded digitally for further evidence. “They refused to reveal several details even though they confessed to the crime and gave details on how they executed it,” the officer said.

Surya, Venkitesh and the latter’s wife, who were absconding for more than a week, had earlier moved a bail plea in Madurai bench of Madras High Court. After the court observed that charges were serious and refused to take an immediate decision, a CB-CID team took custody of the three from a lodge in Tirupati two days ago. The court Thursday allowed Surya’s mother to go, and sent Surya and Venkitesh to judicial custody.

The special DG, who is also in-charge of the cyber cell, spoke to Chief Minister Kamal Nath to present his side of the story. He said the flat had been rented only a fortnight ago and was meant to facilitate the stay of constables and head constables “who go to Delhi to carry out raids and arrest culprits. If they stay in hotels and claim TA/DA, it will run into lakhs. Where is the honeytrap in this?”

Sharma said he had sent a copy of the rent agreement to the headquarters. “I did not seek sanction. I have been using my discretionary funds,” he said. “I am the seniormost (in line of next DGP) and have four-and-a-half years to go in service. DGs come and DGs go. It does not matter if I become DG or not. But senior officers should not resort to such a low level and engage in witch hunt.”

Sources in the police headquarters confirmed that the notice had been sent by the DGP to Sharma. Singh’s phone was switched off.

Sources, however, said the flat had been rented nearly two months ago and not last fortnight. When the agreement reached the headquarters, the DGP was not in town.

Sharma got in touch with the IPS association with a request to call a meeting and stop name-calling, which he said was damaging the image of the police force.

NASA craft circling Moon unable to spot Vikram lander, will check again on Oct 14

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 27

A NASA spacecraft that flew over the location where Vikram lander module of India’s Chandrayaan-2 Moon Mission was supposed to have landed has been unable to locate the missing spacecraft. NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), which is circling the Moon since 2009, will fly over that location again on October 14 and make another attempt to find Vikram.

“LRO passed over the landing site on September 17 and acquired a set of high-resolution images of the area; so far the LROC (LRO Camera) team has not been able to identify the lander,” according to a statement posted on the LROC webpage, handled by a team at the Arizona State University.

It released images of the landing site. One of the images captured a 150-km swathe of territory around the site.

The Vikram lander had failed in its attempt to make a soft landing on the Moon’s surface. While 2.1 km above the Moon, it had de-



The image of the targeted landing site released by NASA. PTI

viated from its scheduled flight path, unable to slow itself down at the rate required to make a safe landing. Moments later, when it was barely 335 metres above the Moon’s surface, it also lost contact with the ground station.

At that instant, Vikram was travelling at a speed of more than 200 km per hour.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has so far refused to say anything about Vik-

ram’s eventual fate. A few days after the failed landing in the early hours of September 7, ISRO had said the Orbiter module of Chandrayaan-2 mission, which is functioning normally, had spotted Vikram and taken thermal images of the spacecraft. However, ISRO has neither explained the thermal images nor explained why normal optical images could not be taken, either at that time or later.

The Orbiter makes several

revolutions of the Moon in a single day.

The instruments on Vikram, and the embedded rover, Pragyaan, were designed to function only for 14 days after the scheduled touchdown on September 7. After that, a lunar night, equivalent of 14 days on Earth, descended on the Moon, during which temperatures dip to as low as minus 200 degrees Celsius in the area where Vikram is supposed to have landed.

Electronics on the instruments were not designed to withstand such low temperatures.

The LRO statement said when the spacecraft flew over the area on September 17, it was already dusk on the Moon, and it was possible that Vikram could be hiding behind the shadows.

“We note that it was dusk when the landing area was imaged and thus large shadows covered much of the terrain, perhaps the Vikram lander is hiding in a shadow. The lighting will be favourable when LRO passes over the site in October and LROC will attempt to image the lander at that time,” the statement said.



All quiet on ISRO front

More than 20 days after the failed landing, it is unlikely that ISRO does not know about the fate of the Vikram lander or its current state. ISRO has said a committee was examining data to reach a conclusion. A similar committee had been formed after the aborted launch of Chandrayaan-2 on July 15, as is done after every such incident.

ISRO has still not officially said what problem had been found during the time of launch.

FACEBOOK TOP PLATFORM WITH MOST MANIPULATION ACTIVITY, FINDS OXFORD PROJECT

India, Pak among 7 nations with state actors active online for propaganda: study

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

INDIA FIGURES in a small bunch of seven countries — along with China, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela — where state actors use computational propaganda on Facebook and Twitter to influence global audiences, according to a comprehensive report on disinformation campaigns released by the Computational Propaganda project at Oxford on Thursday.

The report found at least seven

instances of “cyber troops” in India, and private contractors came out to be the most active “cyber troops” in the country.

These troops are “government or political party actors tasked with manipulating public opinion online”, according to the report, and only Malaysia, Philippines, the UAE, and the US had as many or more instances as India. The report labelled India as “medium capacity” for “cyber troops”. It stated, “Multiple teams ranging in size from 50-300 people. Multiple contracts and advertising expenditures valued at over 1.4M US.”

Other countries in the category are Brazil, Pakistan, and the UK.

Over three years, the researchers examined 70 countries in which these operations do three things: suppress fundamental human rights, discredit political opposition, and drown out political dissent.

In India, cyber troop activity was found in two instances by a political party or politicians, three or more instances by a private contractor, on one instance by civil society organisation, and one by citizens and influencers.

In the first big crackdown on

fake accounts for “inauthentic behaviour” in the run-up to Lok Sabha polls in April, Facebook removed more than 700 pages, groups and accounts from India. Those taken down include accounts associated with the Congress IT cell and Silver Touch Technologies, a company that has worked for the government and the BJP. They were taken down for attempts to deceive users of their identities, according to the company.

The report found that in India, bot-led automated manipulation as well as human-led manipulation spread propaganda for a

party, attacked its political opposition, and spread polarising messaging designed to drive divisions. In India, it found the use of disinformation and media manipulation, data-driven strategies, amplifying content by flooding hashtags, and troll armies that harass dissidents or journalists online. The only technique that the researchers did not find in India that was present in other countries was mass-reporting of content or accounts.

“The co-option of social media technologies provides authoritarian regimes with a powerful

tool to shape public discussions and spread propaganda online, while simultaneously surveilling, censoring, and restricting digital public spaces,” the report says.

Of the 70 countries, 44 had campaigns conducted by government actors, such as a digital ministry or the military, and 45 had campaigns led by political parties or politicians, the report found. This is a 150-per cent increase in countries using organised social media manipulation campaigns.

This year, 70 countries saw campaigns of this kind; the corresponding figures 48 in 2018, and

28 in the year before.

The methodology involved news reporting analysis, a secondary literature review of public archives and scientific reports, drafting country case studies, and expert consultations.

On a platform-wise breakdown of the campaigns, India appeared on Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter but not on YouTube and Instagram. Even with a growth of these activities on WhatsApp, Instagram and YouTube, the report found that Facebook still firmly remained the platform with the most manipulation activity.

DISPROPORTIONATE ASSETS CASE

Virus of corruption has engulfed entire fabric of society, says court while sentencing bureaucrat

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

SENTENCING THE former Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Cochin, and his wife to five years in prison in a disproportionate assets case on Friday, a Delhi court said, “the virus of corruption has engulfed the entire fabric of our society”.

Special Judge Virender Bhat made the remarks while sentencing Vijay Kumar Puri and his wife, Amita Puri. The judge also imposed a fine of Rs 42 lakh on the couple.

Puri was accused by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of accumulating wealth to the tune of over Rs 42 lakh from June 1998 to 2002, when he held several high profile posts in the customs and excise department. His wife was accused of assisting him in parking these assets in bank accounts and procuring forged receipts from a jewellery store to cover up the illegal gains.

While deciding on the sentence, the judge said that he was reminded of Kautilya’s philosophy on sentencing: “whoever imposes severe punishment becomes repul-

sive to people while he who awards mild punishment becomes contemptible. The ruler just with the rod is honoured. When discerned punishment is given, it endows the subject with spiritual good, material well-being and pleasure of the senses.”

The judge said the philosophy is “woven into our statute and into our jurisprudence and it is the duty of the courts to bear this in mind”.

During the hearing, the CBI counsel, Neetu Singh, submitted to the court that the property gained by the couple should be confiscated. Puri’s counsel submitted that there

evidence of misuse of office and prayed for leniency.

“It cannot be disputed that the virus of corruption has engulfed the entire fabric of our society. It has become a major obstacle in the growth and development of our nation. In a democratic system, when the public offices and public institutions are misused for private advantage, they lose their legitimacy... Courts also need to play a vital role in such efforts by dealing sternly with persons found to have indulged in corrupt practices, so that a strong signal is sent to society at large, which would deter other public servants from indulging in corrupt deals,” the judge said.

CONJOINED TWINS FROM ODISHA WERE SEPARATED AT AIIMS

Balia on ventilator, doctors say flu, breathing problems

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THREE WEEKS after conjoined twins Jagga and Balia were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack from AIIMS in Delhi, Balia has been put on ventilator support due to respiratory discomfort coupled with influenza.

According to doctors at the hospital, the four-year-old boy is being closely monitored.

The craniopagus twins from Milipada village of Kandhamal district returned to Odisha on September 7 and were admitted to SCB hospital. A six-member team with specialists from neurosurgery, neurology, surgery and paediatrics departments has been assigned for their treatment.

“When he was brought to the hospital, he was in a vegetative state. He had fever and frequent seizures. His condition improved later. But a few days ago, the fever returned with respiratory discomfort. Suddenly, he suffered respiratory dyspnea (shortness of breath) and was incubated immediately,” said Dr Sudhanshu S Mishra, professor and HOD of Neurosurgery at SCB Medical College.

The twins were admitted to AIIMS on July 13, 2017. The first phase of the surgery to separate them was performed on August 28, when doctors created a ve-



Jagga looks at Balia as he sleeps. They were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack from AIIMS on September 6. *Abhinav Saha/Express File*

nous bypass to separate veins that return blood to the heart from the brain. The final separation was done on October 25 in a 20-hour operation. During the surgery, Jagga suffered a cardiac arrest but was revived.

Dr Mishra said, “He (Balia) is better than yesterday. We are trying our best to keep him fine. We are not sure we will succeed but we will keep trying. This is one of the rarest cases.”

Doctors in AIIMS said they will hold a video-conference with doctors in Cuttack to understand the situation.

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD-II, L.M BUND OFFICE COMPLEX, SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI- 110031

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. III, I&FC, Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online tender for the following works:
1. NIT No: EE/CD-II/NIT/15/2019-20
HOA : TYADB FUND
Name of work :- Improvement of side drain and C.C. pavement for Mandawali main Road towards Railway Colony in Mandawali Fazalpur in AC-58 Laxmi Nagar Assembly Constituency. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,28,11,045/- Earnest Money: Rs. 2,56,221/- Period of completion: 150 Days. Last date of submission of tender: upto 3:00 pm on 07.10.2019. (Tender I.D. 2019-IFC-180766-1)
Other details can be seen at website <http://delhigovt.nic.in/tender>

Sd/
Executive Engineer, CD-II
DIP/Shabdarth/0743/19-20

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

TENDER NOTICE NO. S/Tender/04/2019
Dated: 25-09-2019. (1) All tenders have been uploaded on Indian Railways-E-Procurement portal (IREPS) :- www.ireps.gov.in. For details & necessary guidelines for quoting against e-tender. Please visit IR-E-Procurement portal. (2) The prospective tenderers are advised to get their registered on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> on line. This registration is mandatory for participation in e-tendering and is free of charge. (3) Offers are to be submitted online only. Offers sent/submitted against such e-tenders through e-mail, post fax or in person will be rejected summarily without any consideration. (4) This notice is for information during initial phase only. In future, no such notice shall be published. Vendors are requested to get registered with IREPS and visit portal www.ireps.gov.in for future tenders. (5) Please submit offers online for the following Materials: SN-1. Brief Description: Longitudinal beam, Quantity: 704 Nos, Tender No. 30/19/0134/OT/015/19, Closing/Opening date: 21-10-2019. SN-2. Brief Description: Ball joint roll, Quantity: 510 Nos, Tender No. 30/19/1168/OT/016/19, Closing/Opening date: 21-10-2019. SN-3. Brief Description: Set of valve, Quantity: 19 Set, Tender No. 30/19/1334/OT/017/19, Closing/Opening date: 21-10-2019.

For PCMM
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Chaibasa

Very Short (Emergent) E-Procurement Notice
e-tender Reference No. : RCD/CHAIBASA/974
Date : 27.09.2019

1.	Name of Work	Road Safety Work(Crash Barrier) in Dhansari-Andhari-Paramasada upto Orisa Border Road,Manjhgaoan to Jaintgarh Road via Khairpal Km 0.00 to 29.00, Hobalkand to Khairpal Road And Jhinkpani-Jorapokhar-Silpunji-Thai-Tonto Chowk Road under R.C.D. Road Division, Chaibasa under Non Plan Head for the Year 2019-20(Details of work can be had from detail estimate roadwise)
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 9922524.00 (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Five hundred and Twenty Four) (In the shape of 5 Years National Saving Certificate or 3/5 Years Post Office/ Nationalized Bank/Time Deposit/ BANK GUARANTEE from any Post Office/ Bank within the State of Jharkhand)
3.	Time of Completion	2 (Two) Months
4.	Date of Publication of Tender On Website	04.10.2019 at 11.30 AM
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids.	14.10.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M.
6.	Last date/Time of receipt of cost of bidding document and Bid security	15.10.2019 Up to 12.00 P.M. in Chief Engineer(Com)cum-Model Officer, e-ProcurementCell, RCD, Jharkhand,1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No.-2, Dhuwra, Ranchi-834004
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	15.10.2019 at 3.30 P.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa
9.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	7979945893
10.	Authority to Open the Bid	E-Procurement Officer, office of the Chief Engineer(Com)
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Quoted rate Below 10% will be Outright Rejected. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtender.gov.in>

Executive Engineer
Road Division, R.C.D. Chaibasa
PR218249 (West Singhbhum)19-20*D

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (FOURTH CALL)

IFB No.	F.Kuzhithurai WSIS /SDO II/ CW /2019 /Dt.19.09.2019
Fund	IUDM 2018-19
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.1/1,Sambakulam, Ganesh Nagar, Mattuthavani, Madurai-625007
Sale of Bid & Place of Sale	27.09.2019 to 28.10.2019 upto 17.45 hours at O/o the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Project Division, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu by cash or by Demand Draft Rs.1000/- GST in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Project Division, Nagercoil payable at Nagercoil.
Downloading website	(Free of cost) at www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.tn.gov.in .
Pre Bid meeting	21.10.2019 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	30.10.2019 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee in person or through post. This office will not be held responsible for postal delay, if any.
Bid opening	30.10.2019 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs.in Crore including GST)	Bid security (Rs.in lakh)
1	Providing WSIS to Kuzhithurai Municipality in Kanyakumari District including maintenance for a period of 12 months (Period of completion – 12 months)	22.00	16.50

DIPR / 3393/ TENDER / 2019
Executive Engineer (i/c),
TWAD Board, Madurai
SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ARUNACHAL PRADESH STAFF SELECTION BOARD,
C SECTOR, CIRCUIT HOUSE, ITANAGAR

File No. APSSB/63/2019 Vacancy Notice Dated Itanagar the 27th Sep' 19
ADVERTISEMENT NO. 04/2019

IMPORTANT NOTICE:- Only online applications will be accepted. Application received through any other mode shall be summarily rejected. Online applications are invited for recruitment to the following post under Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board, Itangar purely on contract basis, initially for a period of 1 (one) year.

The opening date and closing date of application of vacancies are as under:

Opening Date of Application:- 28.09.2019

Closing Date of Application:- 29.10.2019

The details of the vacancies, wages, eligibility criteria are as under:

Sl No.	Post Code	Name of Post	Name of Deptt/ Office	Type/ Classification of Post	Wages (per month)	Vacancies
1	17/19	Programmer	Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board	Contractual	₹ 1,25,000	1 (Unreserved)
2	18/19	Assistant Programmer	Arunachal Pradesh Staff Selection Board	Contractual	₹ 75,000	2 (Unreserved)

Candidate must apply online through the website www.apssb.in. The closing date for the submission of online application is 29.10.19 till 11:59 PM after which the link will be disabled. Application received through any other mode would not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

The details regarding name of the posts(s), post code, number of vacancies, educational qualifications, experience required, wages, age limit etc are as under:-

Post Code:-	17/19	Name of Post:-	Programmer
Vacancy	Unreserved-1		
Academic Qualification	B. Tech (Computer Science or MCA with minimum 5 years experience in Software Development)		
Essential Technical / Skill Requirement	Proficiency in .NET, SQL Software, Database Development and maintenance and JAVA, Linux, Cybersecurity.		
Wages	₹ 1,25,000		
Age Limit	upto 45 years		

Post Code:-	18/19	Name of Post:-	Assistant Programmer
Vacancy	Unreserved-2		
Academic Qualification	B. Tech (Computer Science or MCA with minimum 2 years experience in Software Development)		
Essential Technical / Skill Requirement	Proficiency in .NET, SQL Software, Database Development and maintenance, JAVA, Linux, Cybersecurity.		
Wages	₹ 75,000		
Age Limit	upto 40 years		

NOTE:- The candidate must apply Online only. No other mode of application shall be accepted.

1. APPLICATION FEES AND MODE OF PAYMENT:

- i) ₹100 for all candidates (to be paid online only).
- ii) Fee once paid will not be refunded under any circumstances.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- i) The candidate must be a citizen of India.
- ii) The educational qualification, age, experience, etc as stipulated in the advertisement shall be determined as on the closing date of submission of application.

3. MODE OF RECRUITMENT

The mode of recruitment shall be intimated to the candidates on a later date through the official website www.apssb.in

4. DOCUMENTS/INFORMATION TO BE ATTACHED / UPLOADED

- i) Scanned signature of the candidate on white paper with BLACK ink pen (20.60 kb in jpg format).
- ii) Latest/recent passport size photo (40-100 kb in jpg format)
- iii) LTI (Left thumb impression) & RTI (Right thumb impression) (20-60 kb in jpg format).

5. GENERAL INSTRUCTION FOR CANDIDATES

- i) The Board reserves the right to reject the candidature of any ineligible candidate at any stage of recruitment.
- ii) The Board reserves the right to change or make amendment in the examination scheme/mode of recruitment, if so required.
- iii) The Board reserves the right to cancel or modify the advertisement or any part of it at any stage.
- iv) Candidates are advised to keep track of the Board website www.apssb.in for any latest information.

Sd/-
(S.K. Jain) IAS
Secretary cum CoE (APSSB)
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
DIPR/ARN-1947-49

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No.: NIT-26-19-20-W-2 Name of work with its location : Removal/Disposal of muck/Malba/Garbage/cow dung etc lying in Rly colony & Yard (GZBSRE) in the Section of ADEN/MUT. 2 Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 6049014.10 3 Earnest Money Rs. 121000/- (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016) 4 Completion period: 06 Months 5 Cost of tender on Cash/bid post: Rs. 5900/- (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016) 6 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: 08.10.2019 to 22.10.2019 upto 15:00 hrs Opening of tender 22.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs on 7 Similar nature of Work: Any civil engineering works contract or Tree Plantation garden maintenance, any horticulture/landscaping works. 8 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in NIT 26-19-20-W-2 Dated : 26.09.2019 3114/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of Jharkhand
Rural Development Special Division, Hazaribag

Request for Proposal (E-Procurement) Notice
(Short tender notice)

Reference No. –RDD/SD/HZB/15/2019-20

S. N.	Name of work:	Construction of bridge over Siwane river at Panchayat- Daru, Village- Basobar near Shiv Mandir in Daru Block of District Hazaribag.
1.	Estimated Cost:	Rs. 45216700.00 (Four crore fifty two lacs sixteen thousand seven hundred) only.
2.	Completion period of the bridge:	18 Months
3.	Tender Fee and EMD:	Tender Fee - Rs. 10,000.00 EMD - Rs. 904400.00 (Nine lac four thousand four hundred) only.
4.	Date of Publication of Tender on website:	01.10.2019
5.	Pre-bid meeting Date:	Date- 03.10.2019 Time : 03:00 PM
6.	Date/Time of receipt of bids:	From 04.10.2019 at 11.00 AM to 18.10.2019 up to 05:00 PM
7.	Technical Bid opening Date:	Date- 22.10.2019 Time : 02:00 PM
8.	Name & Address of office inviting tender:	Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Hazaribag
9.	Place of submission of Tender Fee & EMD bid (Hard Copy):	1. Executive Engineer, Rural Development Special Division, Hazaribag 2. Chief Engineer, Rural Development Special Zone, F.F.P., Bhawan, Dhuwra, Ranchi.
10.	Contact number of e-Procurement officer/Office	1. 06546-270014 2. 8603675455
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell:	0651-2401750

NOTE :-
1. Only e-Tenders will be accepted.
2. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandetenders.gov.in>
3. The Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate, Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Self attested photo copy of all uploaded documents must be submitted up to 21.10.2019 by 5.00 PM. If Tender Fee, Bank Credit Certificate and EMD are not received before mention date and time then the tender of the related tenderer shall not be accepted.

बूट - बूट नहीं बदरेंगे तो बूट को तरसेंगे
Executive Engineer
Rural Development Special Division, Hazaribag
PR 218253 (Rural Development)19-20RD

Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Chaibasa

Very Short (Emergent) E-Procurement Notice
e-tender Reference No. : RCD/CHAIBASA/976Date : 27.09.2019

1.	Name of Work	Improvement of riding quality work of Chaibasa Parisadan Chouk to NH-75E (upto Buniyadi Vidyalay) under Road Division, Chaibasa under head plan for the year 2019-20. Rs. 9103351.00 (Rupees Ninety one lakhs three thousand three hundred fifty one only) (In the shape of 5 Years National Saving Certificate or 3/5 Years Post Office/ Nationalized Bank Time Deposit/ BANK GUARANTEE from any Post Office/ Bank within the State of Jharkhand)
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	
3.	Time of Completion	3 (Three) Months
4.	Date of Publication of Tender On Website	04.10.2019 at 11.30 AM
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids.	14.10.2019 Up to 3.00 P.M.
6.	Last date/Time of receipt of cost of bidding document and Bid security	15.10.2019 Up to 12.00 P.M. in Chief Engineer(Com)cum-Model Officer, e-ProcurementCell, RCD, Jharkhand,1st Floor, Engineer's Hostel No.-2, Dhuwra, Ranchi-834004
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	15.10.2019 at 3:30 P.M.
8.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Chaibasa
9.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	7979945893
10.	Authority to Open the Bid	E-Procurement Officer, office of the Chief Engineer(Com)
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Quoted rate Below 10% will be Outright Rejected. Here Estimated cost, EMD are approximate, it should be finally mentioned in e-tender uploaded documents. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtender.gov.in>

PR.218257 West Singhbhum(19-20)*D
Executive Engineer
Road Division, R.C.D. Chaibasa

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I AMIT KUMAR S/O RAJESH KUMAR, Residing at H.NO-238, Tajpur Kalan, North West Delhi-110036, inform that name of mine has been wrongly-written as SWAMI AMIT KUMAR in my Driving Licence No: DL1120120211169. The actual name of mine is AMIT KUMAR,which may be amended accordingly. 0040514178-7

I,Swati Shweta W/o.Sh. Bhaskar Verma, R/o D-II/19,West Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023, that Inadvertently in 10th-Class Marksheet of my son,Namely Kuvam Verma aged,about 16-Years my name,has been wrongly written as Swati Shweta Verma instead of Swati Shweta. 0040514180-1

I,Manoj Kumar S/o.Sh.Gopal Lal Wahi R/o S/5/44 3rd floor Old Rajender Nagar New Delhi-110060 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Wahi for all purposes. 0040514191-2

I,Darashana Kumar W/o- Late,Shri Dilbagh Singh, R/o- 2000,Katra Lachhu Singh, Chandni Chowk,H.C.Sen Marg,Delhi-110006,have changed my name from Darshana Kaur to Darashana Kaur for all future Purposes. 0040514180-2

I,Baljinder Kaur Sandhu D/o Sh.Jaspal Singh Sandhu R/o- 2443,First Floor, Hudson Line,Kingsway Camp,Delhi- 9,have changed to my name Baljinder Kaur for all Purposes 0040514180-3

I,hitherto known as HIRALAL SAHU alias JHALA RAM S/O SH. MAKHANLAL SAHU, residing at Permanent Add- H.No.51, Gram-Murta, Bemetara, Nawagarh, Chhattisgarh-491337, Present Add- D-73, West Vinod Nagar, Mandawali, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HIRALAL SAHU. 0040514103-1

I,ZOHAAN Ponty Singh Chadha S/o Manpreet Singh Chadha R/o Farm No. 21, Oak Drive, DLF Chattarpur, Delhi have changed my name from Zohaen Ponty Singh Chadha to Zohaen Ponty Singh Chadha for all future purposes. 0040514095-5

I,Vikash Sharma S/o Sh. Devender Kumar Sharma R/o H.No.65/2, Shyam Enclave Colony, VPO Sehatpur, Faridabad, Haryana-121003, have changed my minor son's name from Hridyansh Sharma to Hridyansh Sharma for all future purposes. 0040514092-1

I, Vibhu @ Vibhu Tripathi S/o Sh.Vivek Tripathi R/o 205, Sector-17-A, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 have changed my name to Shresh Tripathi for all purposes. 0040514096-7

I,Venkatraman Sundarraman S/O, Sundarraman R/o Block A-1 H.O-29 Second Floor Southcity2 Sohna Road have changed my name to Venkatraman S Iyer for all purposes. 0040514178-8

I,Monika Chatterjee W/O Sahrat Chatterjee R/O-57/17 3rd-Floor Back-Side Ashok Nagar Delhi-110018 Have Changed My Name To Monika Hans. 0040514196-4

I, Vasudev Kaushal S/o G.D. Kaushal R/o-H.No.301, Plot.No.154, Opp-Tehsil New Gandhi Nagar, Ghaziabad have my name to Vasudeo Kaushal. 0040514191-6

I, Varun Akshay Sharma S/O Sh.S.K.Sharma @ Shyam Kanhaiya R/o C-3/62/63, DDA Colony, New Kondli, Delhi-110096 is also known as Barun Aditya Das. Both names are of one & the same person. 0040514096-1

I, Usha Rani Grover W/o Sh.Sanjay Mtreja R/o T-1897 Ist-Floor Upper Ridge-Rd., Jhandewalan, Karolbagh, N.Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Sakshi Mtreja,for all purposes. 0040514178-1

I, Tulsirani W/o Kapil Bhandari R/O L-28 Pratap Nagar, Andha Mugal Near Paratap Nagar, Metro Station, Delhi, have changed my name to Pooja Bhandari permanently. 0040514162-2

I, Suneeta Verma W/o-Jatin Bakshi R/o D-406, Indera-Park, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43, Have changed My Name to Mansi Bakshi. 0040514196-7

I,Sumit Mehta F/o Sara Mehta R/o Flat No UG4, Tower 6, Civitech Florencia, Ramprastha Greens, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, do hereby informs that I have changed my daughter's name from Sara to Sara Mehta for all purposes. 0040514147-1

I, Sudha D/o Nirmal Kumar Singh R/o RZD-391, Gali No-14A/7, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Sudha Singh. 0040514107-1

I, Soma alias Suman W/o-Shri Sohan Singh R/o-13/32,Dakshin Puri Extn.,New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Somavanti for all future purposes. 004514171-4

I, Sitaraman Sankara Narayanan R/o 29C, Pocket-1, Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Delhi-110091 Have ChangedMy Minor Son's Name From Suchendra Bharadwaj/S Suchendra Bharadwaj aged 17 years to SankaraSuchendra Bharadwaj 0070676244-1

I, Shyam Kanhya S/o Sh.Ram Niwas Sharma R/o C-3/62/63, DDA Colony, New Kondli, Delhi-110096 is also known as Shyam Kanhaiya, S.K.Das & S.K. Sharma. All names are of one & the same person. 0040514096-4

I,Shyam Kanhaiya S/o Sh.Ram Niwas Sharma R/o C-3/62/63, DDA Colony, New Kondli, Delhi-110096 declares that my minor daughter Shreyashi is also known as Shreyashi Das. Both names are of one & the same person. 0040514096-2

I, Satyapal Bhatti S/o Hart Singh Bhatti R/A-903, Homes 121, Sector-121, Noida, have changed my name to Satyapal Singh Bhatti. 0040514171-2

I, Saroj Devi, W/O-Hart Deo Rai H.No-5-A-Block Gali No-1 Roshan-Nagar Agawanpur-Village Amarnagar-Faridabad Haryana-121003. Have Changed My Name To Suryakala Devi. 0040514196-5

I, Sanjeev S/o Brij Pal Singh R/O A3/605, Purnvanchal Silvercity 2, Sec.PI 2, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201310, have changed my name to Sanjeev Chaudhary for all purposes. 0040514185-1

I, Sangeeta Gupta D/o Shankar Lal, R/o 40/1, First Floor, Guru Angad Nagar, Extn ., Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-92, have changed my name from Sangeeta to Sangeeta Gupta For All Purposes. 0040514123-1

I, Sandeep Kaur W/o Manjinder Singh R/o H.No.32-A, U/F,Floor, Vikaspuri, Chander-Vihar, Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Sarbjeeet Kaur. 0040514178-5

I, Saddam Husen S/o Shahid Mohammad R/o H.No.278, Rudrapur, PS-Hathras Junction, Hathras, UP have changed my name to Saddam Husain. 0040514191-4

I, SANAMDEEP Chadha W/o Manpreet Singh Chadha R/o Farm No. 21, Oak Drive, DLF Chattarpur, Delhi have changed my name from Sanamdeep Chadha to Sanamdeep Chadha for all future purposes. 004514095-1

I, Ravi S/o Narendra Singh R/O- QU-213C, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name from Ravi to Ravi Choudhary, for all future purposes. 0040514178-2

I, Rama Singh Manral W/o,Narendra Singh Manral R/O-Flat No-002, U.G.F., Sai-Home Sector-70, Noida,UP have changed my name to Rama Manral. 0040514178-6

I, Rajkumari Ramesh W/o Ramesh Kumar R/o- H.No.1678,Dabua Colony, Faridabad,Haryana have changed my name to Raj Kumari for all purposes Vide-affidavit no.IN-DL-10360857264011R. 0040514227-4

I, Rais Ahmed S/o Kallu Qureshi R/O-C-1189 Gali No.12/5, Chauhan Banger, New Seelampur Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Haji Rais Ahmad for all purposes. 0040514227-6

I, Radhey Shyam S/o Late Sh. Mangal Dass R/o E-2/239, F.F., Sect-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 has changed my son's name fromRISHABH to RISHABH DEV for all purposes in future. He is minor as on 01-09-2019 as per his date of birth i.e. 4 January, 2005 and he is also a resident of the aforementioned address. 0040514152-1

I, Rachna Sirohi W/o Vijay Sirohi R/o H.No 107 Street No. 3, Village Wazirabad, Delhi, have changed my name to Rachna Anand for all purposes. 0040514179-1

I, Raashi Kakkar D/o Gurmeet Singh R/o North West Moti Bagh Type -11 Qtr No-46 New Delhi-21 changed my name to Rashi Kakkar. 0070676243-1

I, Pritpal Jit Singh Panesar S/o Manmohan Singh R/o J/4/27, First Floor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Pritpal Jit Singh for all purposes. 0040514112-1

I, Ponnuswamy resident New T-13/14 Shukkar Bazar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi 110059, have changed my minor son's name Toshit to Toshit Ponnuswamy. 0040514174-1

I, Pawan Kumar S/O Shri Ramesh Chander Mittal R/O B-5/453, Sector-5, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Pawan Kumar Mittal. 0040514227-2

I, Pankaj Pruthi R/o 81, Vaishali, New Palam Road, Delhi, have changed my minor daughter's name from Chaarvi Paruthi to Chaarvi Pruthi for all purposes. 0040514177-1

I, Pankaj Kumar S/O Pawan Singh R/O 60D/E-4, Udyog Vihar, Sector-82, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201304 have changed my minor daughter's name from Gunn to Drishya Agrohi for all purposes. 0040514237-2

I, Nirmal W/o Shri. Tej Prakash Singh Ahluwalia R/o-H.No.-335,First Floor,Dhakra Johar, Bhai Parmanand Colony,Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Nirmal Walia for all future purposes. 0040514171-5

I, Nirdosh Kumar Alias Nirdosh Sharma Alias Nirdosh Kaushik S/o Raj Singh R/o-House Number 6, Kadipur, Delhi-110036. All three names are of the same person and I shall be known by all three names. 0040514102-1

I, Nidhi Verma w/o Deepak Verma R/o 118, Barshabhulla Chowk, Chawri Bazaar, Delhi-6, have changed my name to Hema Verma for all future purposes. 0040514214-1

I, Namita Srivastav D/o Sh.Sunil Kumar Srivastav W/o Sh.Rohit Ranjan Verma R/o E-30, Plot No.1, Gaurav Apartments, I.P.Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 have changed my name after marriage to Namita Verma for all purposes. 0040514096-6

I, Mohit Batachandran staying in Flat no 101, Tower S6, Saraswati Apts, D6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-70, hereby state that Savera Chauhan Balachandran (DOB 07 Aug 2003) is my daughter. 0040514142-1

I, Mohd Kashif, S/o Mohd Mehboob, H.No-962, GaliPatna-Wali, Punjabi-Phatak, Ballimaran, Delhi-110006,Changed My Minor Son Name Mohd Ayan To Mohd Ayaan. 0040514227-10

I, Mohammed Naseer-Uddin S/O Salahuddin, whose correct Date of Birth is 05/09/1979 residing at H.No.940, Gali Mochiyani Haveli Azam Khan Chitli Qabar Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Mohammad Naseer for all purposes. 0040514154-1

I, Maya Devi W/O Mohan Singh H.No-38, Meera Kunj,Nilothi-Extn.,N.Delhi Have Changed my Name to Maya Kaur. 0040514191-7

I, Manoj Kumar Aggarwal S/o Ganesh Chand Aggarwal r/o A-502, Gandharwa Society, Sector Omega-1, Greater NOIDA-201310, have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Agarwal. 0040514164-1

I, Manju Sharma W/o Sh.Shyam Kanhaiya R/o C-3/62/63, DDA Colony, New Kondli, Delhi-110096 is also known as Debjani Das & Manju Das. All names are of one & the same person. 0040514096-3

I, Manju Kumari W/o Sh. Bholu Singh R/o House 9B, Neb Sarai, Delhi 68 do hereby solemnly inform that in My Husband's LIC policy no. 109986025 mentioned Kanchand Devi as Nominnee. My actual name is Manju Kumari. That Manju Kumari and Kanchan Devi is one and same person. 0040514225-1

I, LAXMAN S/O Maan Singh R/O 18/67 kalyanpuri Delhi-110091 inform that name of my has been wrongly mentioned as Laxman singh in my school service record and P.F Record. The correct name is Laxman both are same person Respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040514191-3

I, Hitherto Known As Honey Katyal S/O Ramesh Katyal Residing At Villa No-3, ATS-Village Sector-93A, Gautam-Buddha Nagar, Uttar-Pradesh-201301 Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Honeyq Katyal. 0040514191-9

I, Hemlata W/o Sh.P.V.Suresh Nair R/O.B-61 Block-B NPL-Colony New Rajinder-Nagar New Delhi-110060. have changed my name from P.N.Hemlata to Hemlata., for all purposes. 0040514196-3

I, Hemant Pandey S/o Sh. K.P.Pandey R/O-593A, Second-Floor, Brahman-Wada, Mehrauli, Gadaipur New Delhi-110030 have changed my name from Hemant Kumar to Hemant Pandey,for all purposes. 0040514191-5

I, Hemant Kumar S/o Shri Krishan R/O D-325, Ext-2, Nangloi, Delhi-110041, have changed my minor daughter name from Ishika to Rashi Dogra for all purposes. 0040514196-1

I, Harish Chand Malik S/o Bahadur Chand Khatler R/O WZ-5424A-1 Sri Nagar Shakurbasti, Delhi, have changed my name to Harish Malik permanently. 0040514162-1

I, Gurjeet Singh Bhatti S/o Harinder Singh R/O-J-10/12 Rajouri Garden Delhi-110027, Have Changed My Name To Gurjeet Singh, For Future. 0040514178-3

I, Swatantra kumar R/o 378-379,1st floor,Daryaganj,Delhi Gate-110002 have changed my name to Sameer Ibrahim 0070676241-1

I, Ghazala Hashmi W/o Syed Mohd Ghazali R/o H.No.2598, Kucha Chelana, Darya Ganj,New Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Ghazala Parveen for all purposes. 0040514154-2

I, Davinder Singh R/o H.No.235-A, Friends-Enclave, SultanPuri, Delhi-110086,have changed my minor daughter's name,from Brhamlin Kaur to Bani Kaur,for all purposes. 0040514227-5

I, Bhavneet Singh S/o Gurdip Singh Uppal R/o L-69, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Bhavneet Singh Uppal for all purposes. 0040514114-1

I, Azeemuddin S/o Moinuddin R/o 3119, Sir Sayed Ahmed Road Darya Ganj New Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Azimuddin 0040514093-1

I, Anwar Ali S/o,Sayed Babar Ali R/O-45/1, Street-01,New Govindpur, Parwana-Road, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Sayed Anwar Ali. 0040514178-4

I, Ankrit Pandey @ Kumar Ayush S/o Sh.Suresh Pandey R/o E-1336-A, Laxmi Park, Nangloi, Nilothi, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Kumar Ayush for all purposes. 0040514096-5

I, Anil S/o Shri Prakash Tiwari, R/O-747, Bhudda Marg, Mandawali Fazalpur, Delhi-110092, have changed my name from Anil to ANIL TIWARI for all future purposes. 0040514163-1

I, Anil Kumar Prasad S/o Bishwanath Prasad R/O-RZ-17A/350, GaliNo.17, Jagdamba-Vihar, West-SagarPur, N.Delhi-110046. changed my name to Anil Kumar Sah. 004514227-9

I, Amit Kumar S/o Satya Pal Bains R/O A-98, Sector-26, Noida(U.P.), have changed my name from Amit Kumar Bains to Amit Kumar for all future purposes 0040514171-1

I, Ajay Kumar S/o Munan Babu Kashyap R/o J-82, Sector-22, Noida-201301 Have Changed My Name to Ajay Kashyap. 0070676242-1

I, Aashima Khanna W/o Shri Ashwani Khanna R/o D-46, Mansarover Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Rita Khanna for all purposes. 0040514119-1

I, ANAIYA Kaur Chadha D/o Manpreet Singh Chadha R/o Farm No. 21, Oak Drive, DLF Chattarpur, Delhi have changed my name from Anaiya Kaur Chadda to Anaiya Kaur Chadha for all future purposes. 0040514095-4

I, AHILIYA Kaur Chadha D/o Manpreet Singh Chadha R/o Farm No. 21, Oak Drive, DLF Chattarpur, Delhi have changed my name from Ahilya Kaur Chadda to Ahilya Kaur Chadha for all future purposes. 0040514095-2

I, AASMA Kaur Chadha D/o Manpreet Singh Chadha R/o Farm No. 21, Oak Drive, DLF Chattarpur, Delhi have changed my name from Aasma Kaur Chadda to Aasma Kaur Chadha for all future purposes. 0040514095-3

I, Sony Sharma D/o Sh S.K Sharma R/o H.NO-85, 3rd floor, Jeevan Nagar,Near Gurudwara Bala Sahib, New Delhi-110014, Have change my name Sony Sharma to Sony Bhargwa do hereby declare that in future for all purposes. 0040514158-2

I, Deepti Arora w/o Sh Naveen Bahal R/o S-26, 1st floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008, Have change my name Deepti Arora to Deepti Bahal do hereby declare that in future for all purposes. 0040514158-1

I,Jasvir Singh S/O Gurdial Singh R/O-554/2 SultanPur Mehrauli Delhi-110030 Have Changed My Name To Jasbir Singh. 0040514196-6

I,Vishnu Dutt S/o Shri.Jai Kishan Dass, R/o-1989-D, Railway-Road Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my name from Vishnu to Vishnu Dutt., for future Purposes. 0040514196-9

I,Vibha Saini,D/o Dharambir Saini R/o-House.no.78, Poll.no. 49-A, Mundka Delhi-41, state that my father is also known as Dharamvir, Dharmvir, Dharambir Saini and are same and one person. 0040514191-10

I, Veema Dhanraj S/O TvVeema Raj R/O-185/30,1st-floor, Main-Krishna, Gali-Adarsh Mohalla, Seelampur, Delhi-53, have changed my name,from Veema Dhanraj to Dhanraj, for all future purposes. 0040514196-2

I,Shiv Shanker S/o Late Sh. Dharm Singh R/o 23-C, Pocket-4, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Shiv Shanker Gahlot. 0040514165-1

I,Roshni W/o-Bhajan Singh R/O-52/5M (NIT) 5M-Block Faridabad Haryana-121001 have changed my name to Roshni (Given-Name) Singh(Surname). 0040514227-7

I,Rajat Yadav S/o Ram Singh Yadav R/o Farm No-38, Sundervan Farms, Church Road, Vasant Kunj Delhi-110070 have changed my name to Rajat Kumar. 0040514165-2

I,Nitin kumar S/O Nand Lal Resident of 7959, First floor, Kharia Street, Roshanara Road, Delhi-110007 has changed my name to Nitin. 0040514191-1

I,Mohan S/o Gajender Sharma R/o-Plot.No.23, Kh.No.158/2, Ishwar-Colony, Bawana, Delhi-39 have changed my name to Mohan Sharma, for future purposes. 0040514196-8

I,Kush Jayaswal S/o Sunil Jayaswal R/o H. No. 14/99, NIT Faridabad, Haryana inform that Kush Kukeja & Kush Jayaswal both are same person & my correct name is Kush Jayaswal for all future purposes. 0040514178-9

I,kamal Kumar Goyal S/O Bishwanath Goyal R/O D-302, Vinoba Kunj Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name from Kamal Goyal to Kamal Kumar Goyal. 0040514104-1

I,Harpreet Singh Jabbal S/O Jasbir Singh Jabbal R/o WZ-58, near Radhey Shyam Mandir, Shardapur, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Harpreet Singh for all purposes. 0040514117-1

I,Chnder Prakash S/O-Man Phool Singh R/o H.No-D-190, Qutub-Vihar, Phase-2,Goyla-Dairy, Najafgarh, Delhi-110071, Changed my Name to Chander Prakash Balmiki. 0040514191-8

I,Bhajan Singh S/O-Saroup Singh R/O-52/5M (NIT) 5M-Block Faridabad Haryana-121001, have changed my name to Bhajan (Given-Name) Singh (Surname). 004514227-8

LOST & FOUND

I, Sukrit Kwatra S/o Joginder Pat Kwatra have lost my Shop Property original documents, Shop No.IX/6870, Arya Samaj Gali, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi-110031. If found please contact: 36, Ram Vihar, East Delhi-110092. Tel.9999887895. 0040514099-1

Lost my original Share Certificate of Flat No. 48, Nav Vikas Society, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Finder may Contact-Sadhna Tyagi D/o Late Sh. Ramesh Chand Tyagi at D-77, Gali No.4, Khajuri Colony, Delhi-110094. 0040514167-1

My original property Document Allotment letter of property Flat No.D801NPSC Society Plot-5, Sector-2, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 by the name of Raminder Kaur Bal.Finder contact: Gagan Deep Singh S/o Aminder Singh Mobile No.9717791895. 0040514178-10

I, Leela Wati, W/o Roshan Lal, have lost my property documents, Possession Letter, NOC, Demand Letter and Inverger Set of Property No. 96, Janta Quarters, Pocket-3, Paschim Puri, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063. If Found Please Contact above address. 0040514115-1

PROPERTY

Bungalow available with all amenities for family picnic and other purpose at foot hills of Neral Matheran. contact 9820504215. 0050155907-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
I for and on behalf of my clients Sh. Sunil Gang S/o Late Jai Prakash Gang and Smt. Anja Gang W/o Sh. Sunil Gang both R/o A-238, Upper Ground Floor, Janak Puri, B1 West, Delhi-110058 do hereby inform the public at large that my clients have debarred, disinherited and severed their relations with their son Sh. Saurabh Gang and daughter in law Smt. Surbhi Gupta. W/o Sh. Saurabh Gang forever and for all intent and purposes. My clients will not be responsible for any actions of their son and daughter in law mentioned above in future in any manner and anyone dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk and cost. Sd/- Ajay Chowdhary (Advocate) D-2524/2014 Ch. No. 51, Saket District Court, New Delhi-110017.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Sh. Kalash Chand Khanna S/o. Lia Ram Khanna and Smt. Aashika Khanna W/o. Kalash Chand Khanna both R/o H.No. C-61, First Floor (Block-C) Mohan Garden, Delhi-110092 have severed their all relations with their son namely Sh. Pankaj Khanna and his wife Smt. Kirti Khanna (a/k/a Kirti Molpina (daughter-in-law) due to their uncivil behaviour and immoral activities. My clients have also debarred/dissolved them from all their movable and immovable properties. Now son and daughter-in-law of my clients shall have no right, title and interest in any movable or immovable properties. Whoever makes any kind of legal and legal deals with them, same shall be entirely at their own risk and consequences and my clients shall not be held responsible in any manner for their acts, deeds and things. MOHIT SINGHAL-ADVOCATE Ch. No. 522, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma S/o. Lia Ram Khanna and Smt. Aashika Bazar, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, has lodged a FIR No. 0441 dated 28/09/2019, P.S. Najafgarh, New Delhi regarding their in his house in which (i) all original documents of Property No. A-64, Naya Bazar, Najafgarh, New Delhi area measuring 150 sq. yds. out of Kharsa No. 9/13 and 217 Sq. Yds. Out to Kharsa No. 9/9 total 171 Sq. Yds. (ii) all original documents related to it. (iii) 10% area measuring 138 Sq. Yds. Out of measuring 277 Sq. Yds.) (iv) 10% area measuring 138 Sq. Yds. Out of Kharsa No. 4/212/2, measuring 150 Sq. Yds. 2250x60, East-Road 20 D-1, West Gali 3 F, North-East Road and South Plot No. 377 documents executed by Sh. Ramesh Kumar Sharma R/O A-38, Najafgarh, Delhi in favour of my client Sh. Ashok Kumar Sharma and in Passport, PAN Card, Aar Card, Voting Card & other educational documents were stolen. Any person doing with or on the basis of said documents in respect of above mentioned properties shall be doing so at his/her risk, cost & consequences since in respect of the above mentioned properties belong to my clients who are rightful owner of the above said property. RAJBALA MISHRA (ADVOCATE) Smt No. 45, Central Hall, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concerned that my client Sh. Mukesh Kumar S/o Late Sh. S.B. Bankley Lal R/O G-3, 174, Gate No.8, Sai Enclave, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-110059 severs all relations from his eldest son Sh. Amit Kumar and daughter-in-law Sh. S. B. Tripathi (Advocate) S. B. Tripathi (Advocate) 62, Lawyers Chamber, Supreme Court compound, G.L. Sanghi Block, New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Rashmi Bhatia, Wo Late Sushil Bhatia, R/o 57A, View Nagar, Double Story Delhi-110009 is the true, lawful and absolute owner of the property 57A, View Nagar, Double Story, Delhi-110009 consisting of 1st Floor, 2nd Floor, 3rd floor, 4th floor. Due to the temporal illness of my client, she has debarred and debarred her son Anam Bhatia from all her movable and immovable properties and severed all her relations and connections from the above named person, Anam Bhatia and his wife and any, will not have any claim over the self owned and ancestral immovable and moveable properties of my clients which include bank locker claims and others and so on. Any person dealing with him shall do the same at his own risk, cost and consequences and my clients will not be responsible for his/her acts and deeds in any manner whatsoever. KRISHNA BHOLA (Advocate) Ch. No. 84/95, B.G.S. Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I ASHISH MITTAL S/O BERJESH GUPTA residing at 120 B, 2nd floor, J & K Block, near Narula Bakery, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ASHISH GUPTA in HDFC BANK LTD, CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTS, DRIVING LICENSE and in the other documents. The actual name of mine is ASHISH MITTAL respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. Sd/- VINOD KUMAR WADHWA-ADVOCATE Smt No. 10, Hall No.3, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi-Metro : 987778995



THE NRC SPECTRE

BJP leaders are not serving any national interest by spreading panic that NRC will soon be implemented across India

THE PANIC SPARKED off by the spectre of NRC (National Register of Citizens) should serve a warning to politicians who have been talking about its implementation across the country soon. Across West Bengal, queues are lengthening outside government offices with people seeking the documents necessary for inclusion in the NRC; there have even been reports of suicide, reportedly due to “panic” and “depression” for want of papers. With the Assam experience fresh, where nearly 19 lakh people are out of the NRC and uncertain about their future, people in West Bengal are taking no chances. No assurance from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seems to convince a worried population, many of them having crossed over from East Pakistan and Bangladesh during Partition in 1947 and after the 1971 war, that the state has no intention to introduce an NRC.

Public anxiety is not surprising since senior functionaries of the BJP have been insisting that the NRC is a given. BJP President and Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently said: “The people of the country took a decision in 2019. We are here to bring the NRC, and those who are excluded will be sent out of the country after due legal process.” Ahead of the general election, Shah infamously referred to illegal migrants as termites and said a BJP government would pick up infiltrators and throw them into the sea. The BJP functionaries have also introduced a communal angle in the citizenship debate by insisting that Hindus excluded from the NRC would be protected. Earlier this week, the BJP general secretary in charge of the party in West Bengal, Kailash Vijayvargiya said: “As national general secretary of BJP, I want to assure all of you that NRC will be implemented but not a single Hindu will have to leave the country. Each and every Hindu will be given citizenship.” RSS supremo Mohan Bhagwat too has reportedly said that the RSS will stand by Hindus not listed in the final NRC in Assam and that Hindus anywhere in India need not worry. The Delhi BJP has turned shrill in its demand for NRC, following in the footsteps of the chief ministers of Haryana and UP.

The NRC was proposed for Assam in 1951 in the backdrop of the extraordinary political history of the region before Partition: The national in NRC does not indicate any national intent. And the idea of citizenship envisaged by the Indian Constitution does not discriminate on the basis of religion. The founding fathers of the republic also did not envisage that this country should close its borders to people fleeing political and economic turmoil. The BJP leadership is surely not serving national interest by erasing this history and whipping up anxieties over questions that can cause deep cleavages in the society.

ON THE ROAD

Thomas Cook went under, but the old school travel agency model might yet survive

WHEN A 178-YEAR-OLD travel agency says, as it did in its slogan, “Don’t just book it, Thomas Cook it”, a particular confidence shines through. That consumer faith can be transposed onto an entity which understands your travel interests with a higher degree of perception. That was before the World Wide Web disrupted the tourism landscape. Thomas Cook did do its best over the years. But the old travel firm, Thomas Cook UK, which catered to approximately 19 million travellers a year across 16 countries, entered compulsory liquidation earlier this week. The company reportedly was \$2.1 billion in debt.

Factors such as Brexit have been stated as reasons compounding the firm’s financial woes. However, the inability of the firm to adapt digitally is being highlighted as an example of how brick-and-mortar travel stores may lose relevance. Thomas Cook had upwards of 600 physical outlets — called “high street” stores in the UK for their prime location. That’s a staggering amount of overhead expenditure, when a digital presence is almost free in comparison. The firm’s overall approach stood at odds with an industry where Online Travel Agents (OTAs) and User-Generated Content (UGC) are crucial information sources. A 2018 World Bank report notes how, in 2017, TripAdvisor bookings alone made up US\$546 billion of global tourism spend. Online travel reviews on TripAdvisor, the report noted, “have grown to 660 million in 2018... A study by OTA Expedia and Comscore... found that in 2016, US travelers alone spent 8.7 billion minutes consuming digital travel content, a 41 per cent increase year-on-year.”

Does this mean curtains for the travel agent as we have known? Yes and no. While high rentals and cost overheads make physical presence non-competitive vis a vis online portals, the information overload online and the yearning for an assuring human hand to sift through the data and make it simple may help trusted firms stay in business. For instance, a 2017-18 study by MMGY Global said 33 per cent of millennials in the US would prefer to hire travel agents in the next two years. Breaking down a 2019 industry report, TTG Asia, a leading Asia-Pacific travel-trade group, states how 42 per cent of travellers find the lack of human interaction frustrating, up from 38 per cent in 2018. At an international travel forum in May, Deloitte’s lead partner travel, Alistair Pritchard, reportedly said a combination of factors, especially information overload, is going to ensure “the return of the travel expert”. If not Thomas Cook, someone else might continue to Cook it.

EIGENFACE CHIC

In the battle for privacy, war paint is proving to be the most efficient means of confusing facial recognition

AS PRIVACY CONCERNS grow over the rampant use of facial recognition technology on the street, and in shops and private spaces, the anti-face movement is catching up. It is a technology problem, and the solution was expected to be technological. Who would have expected the perfect hack to arrive in the guise of fashion? This week, as London Fashion Week closed, the Dazzle Club took a walk in London’s King’s Cross, wearing war paint that anonymised them in plain sight in the heart of the world’s most camera-dense city.

The name is obviously a grateful nod to the technologist and artist Adam Harvey’s CV Dazzle project, which exploits weaknesses in the OpenCV library for real-time computer vision. Facial recognition depends on Eigenfaces, the set of vector maps used in facial recognition, which are sensitive to factors like the distance between the eyes, and their relation to the corners of the mouth. With present technology, covering part of the face or wearing shades does not help. OpenCV simply works with what it can see, and ignores your pathetic attempts at concealment.

But weird makeup and hairdos which distort the apparent proportions of the face work. CV Dazzle is a set of blazes, patterns and cosmetics worn on the face to confuse cameras. But designers aren’t satisfied with just thwarting facial recognition. They are culture jamming, too, choking the system with junk data and noise. The raddest strategy is clothes printed with the faces of celebrities, which divert the cameras from your face. They see Barack Obama, Janis Joplin, Che Guevara, even Elvis himself. They see everyone except you. As cameras become pervasive in India, we need local flavour. The nation where political workers wear the face of their leader also deserve camouflage gear. We’ll take the Netaji T-shirt, thank you.



V S SESHADRI

THE RCEP NEGOTIATIONS have entered the final phase. A ministerial level meeting earlier this month in Bangkok, following similar consultations last month in Beijing and a trade negotiating committee meeting currently in progress in Vietnam, all signal a quickening pace. Within India too, intensive stakeholder consultations have taken place. A track 1.5 consultation among RCEP countries held in Delhi on September 13 also saw many of the RCEP lead negotiators and their back-up think tanks interacting with their counterparts in India and industry bodies. Will the deal be finalised in time for the ASEAN summit meetings in Bangkok in November? And will India remain a part of it? Mixed signals continue.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal recently said that while the government would strive to protect the interests of a majority of industries, the overall discussion cannot be hijacked by one or two sectors. This is widely seen as declaring an intention to remain in RCEP and make it work for us. RCEP negotiations have been underway since 2013. Its significance for regional integration, even if most of the participating countries are already connected by bilateral FTAs, cannot be understated. At a time when global trade and the global economy are facing huge uncertainties, it could be a booster shot.

But will it work for India? That depends on what has already been negotiated and what can be achieved in the remaining time. But some essential points merit mention. And since India will bring significant additional to RCEP, it should negotiate hard.

On the export front, India’s export capacities and competitiveness in relation to the RCEP region are presently limited. Where they exist, duty reductions by partners require front-loading. This includes textiles, gems and jewellery, pharma, autos, some engineering and chemical items and certain agricultural and marine products. Export consolidation in them can take place in RCEP markets not covered by FTAs now. Even with existing FTA partners, if we can improve market access with deeper concessions such as in cotton yarn with Korea or on easier rules of origin with Japan for shrimps or for cut and polished diamonds, these would help. More important will be the easing of non-

India should join RCEP, but negotiate a better deal to safeguard its interests

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KHALED AHMED

TARIQ RAHMAN, DEAN at the School of the Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at the Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, has written the most comprehensive book on jihad, the religious war of Islam, exercising the minds of Muslims and non-Muslims alike. *Interpretations of jihad in South Asia: An Intellectual History* (OUP) begins with the erstwhile but now ignored thinkers like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Maulvi Chiragh Ali who thought jihad was defensive war and not conquest to collect more jizya (poll-tax on non-Muslims).

This book looks at the lack of scholarly consensus on what jihad means, especially in the hands of radical organisations such as al Qaeda and the Islamic State. It takes 323 pages of the most absorbing scholarship to understand the radical jihad, springing mostly from the authority of Ibn Taymiyya (1262-1328) and culminating in the disputed hadith about Ghazwa-e-Hind, legalising and prompting an uprising against India in Kashmir.

The book rivets attention on the details of the phenomenon of extremism among Muslims that has ended up in jihad, killing more Muslims than non-believers. Pakistan has been the testing ground of theories of jihad that, some say, have been ordained in the Quran, which also lays down qital (killing) as an injunction. Pakistan has been the victim of the covert war which was supposed to be

THE MORBIDITY OF JIHAD

Pakistan has compromised its internal sovereignty by supporting non-state actors

directed at the infidels. This should be instructive, given the aimless bloodshed, unless Pakistan doesn’t care about it.

In terms of governance, the jihadi state has to surrender internal sovereignty because private jihadi organisations have to be located in civil society and have to be exempted from municipal law in respect of their use of weapons and training. States can tolerate the diminution of external sovereignty — mostly owing to economic weakness — but they cannot survive the surrender of internal sovereignty. There can be no governance when the state is not sovereign, even internally. The problem of “extraterritoriality” has been the most pressing problem in Pakistan’s governance under the doctrine of jihad.

More than 50 per cent of its territory was outside the municipal jurisdiction of the state since Pakistan had failed to bring the whole of Balochistan under the normal writ of the state and had preserved till 2018 the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) as a relic of the British Raj’s “buffer” territory. Jihad created an extended “extraterritoriality” or “no-go areas” that assaulted the big cities of Pakistan. In the smaller cities, the entire administration may have been run by non-state actors, as happened in Toba Tek Singh when the champion of Pakistani jihad, Lashkar-e-Toiba, was the most powerful militia in the country.

Any discussion of law and order in Pakistan in the past has run headlong into the state’s policy of (proxy) jihad. Because jihad was fought with mercenary troops, there was a sharing of the sovereignty of the state with jihadi leaders. There is resistance among politicians to the post-9/11 perceived policy of giving up jihad because the world increasingly equates jihad to terrorism through the FATF. There is apparently no realisation that jihad militates against governance above all.

Rahman wonders at the book’s conclusion: “This study has concerned itself only with ideas about jihad. Perhaps the crucial question, not addressed here, is whether people are really influenced by these ideas? In short, is it because there are radical interpretations in circulation on the internet, among role models of the peer group, among friends and relatives, that people get radicalised? Or is it that they join for other reasons such as poverty, lack of education, mental illness, sexual frustration, or money?”

Rahman takes note of Suhail Abbas, a Pakistani psychologist who examined 517 men in jail “for having attempted to go to Afghanistan to fight US troops”. His conclusion was that all “jihadis” suffered from “psychological morbidity”.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan



SEPTEMBER 28, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

ECONOMIC OFFENCES
THE CHIEF MINISTERS’ conference was divided on the question of the Central and state governments assuming fresh legislative powers to deal with economic offences, as suggested by Prime Minister Charan Singh, in his inaugural speech. Although some states like UP and Karnataka felt that a fresh legislation was called for, most others either opposed the suggestion or were reticent about it. It is possible that having sounded the chief ministers on the need for fresh legislation, the Centre might consider it as a fulfilment of its obligation and go ahead with its proposal for some kind of preventive detention law to curb economic offences.

ONE-DAY POLLS
THE CONSENSUS AT the chief ministers’ conference in New Delhi was against a one-day poll for the Lok Sabha election. The question will, however, be further discussed by the chief election commissioner at a meeting with the state chief secretaries before he takes a final decision. While the CEC has been insisting that polling be completed across the country in a single day, a large number of state governments have felt that it would not be possible for them to make arrangements for a one-day poll. The reason for this is the constraints of resources, particularly of law and order enforcement machinery.

HINDU SUCCESSION ACT
SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS WOMEN and lawyers have come out strongly against the Haryana Bill amending the Hindu Succession Act to debar Hindu women from inheriting property from their parents. The Bill which was passed unanimously by the Assembly, however, has to go to the President for his assent. Lawyers, particularly women lawyers, when questioned on the subject were unanimous in terming the bill as a “retrogressive step,” which amounted to discriminating on the basis of sex. Kapila Hingorani, a Supreme Court lawyer, pointed out that the most terrible repercussion of the Bill would be to strengthen the custom of dowry.



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

The making of history

Modi Econ 2.0 has started with a big bang — the largest corporate tax cut in world history for new manufacturing firms. Surely this is just the beginning



BY SURJIT S. BHALLA
AND KARAN BHASIN

ON SEPTEMBER 20, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced one of the largest corporate tax cuts in world history. For all companies that don't avail exemptions or incentives, the new corporate tax rate was set at 22 per cent while for new manufacturing firms established after October 1 (and who start production before 2023), the corporate tax rate was set at 15 per cent. The prevailing corporate rate — 30 per cent. The relevant tax rate is with surcharges and cesses — this has been reduced from 35 per cent to 25 per cent (all firms) and from 35 per cent to 17 per cent (new manufacturing firms).

Analysts, commentators and economists have looked at these large, historical, tax cuts and debated whether they will have any impact on demand or GDP growth. A dominant belief is that this is a supply-side intervention and even if it were to have an effect on demand, it will be only after a considerable lag. Some are even opining that this is neither a supply nor a demand side intervention but instead a "gift" to the corporate sector; others believe that what is needed to revive demand and GDP growth are long-term structural reforms. According to them, only structural changes that kindle animal spirits, agriculture, quality of education, improved health-care, etc. matter for growth acceleration. (Add a structural change in weather as well).

These Godot experts believe India's time will come but only when Godot arrives — after much needed structural reforms. By definition, structural reforms mean policies that have not been in place, to date. Godot needs to answer as to how, and why, India managed to grow at 7+ per cent for more than a decade without structural change?

We believe that a large part of the recent Indian growth decline to 5 per cent is cyclical, caused by both global (trade wars) and domestic factors. A major contributor to India's growth sluggishness (and decline) are distorted domestic policies, particularly corporate tax rates (highest in the world) and real policy rates (highest in the world).

We go into details below, but we do want to make an Econ 000 point — cutting the corporate tax rates is both a supply and a demand intervention. Even the supply effect will likely not take long to materialise. On the demand side, there is the wealth effect, due to higher asset prices. Assume for a moment that the stock market rise is at least 15 per cent for the fiscal year from the close of trade on September 19 (Sensex at 36,000 and Nifty at 10,700). In one week, the stock market is up more than 8 per cent. We realise this may be noise but the estimate of only an additional 7 per cent rise over the next six months is conservative. Each 1 per cent rise in market cap is approximately Rs 1.4 lc (lakh crore). A 15 per cent rise translates into an additional Rs 21 lc. Global estimates of wealth effect on consumption vary but a magnitude of .05 is reasonable, that is, the wealth effect can be expected to yield an additional [(0.05*21) or 1.05 lc or] Rs 1,05,000 crore of consumption. [Note that we have completely ignored the



CR Sasikumar

wealth effect emanating from the likely stabilisation, and increase, in house prices]

An important additional demand effect is via additional investment. The sceptics (Godot fans?) will say that since there is excess capacity there will be no additional investment until demand magically reappears. Of course, this argument is close to tautological and as close to "Ganga gaye to Gangadas aur jamuna gaye to jamunadas". With this view, there is no wealth effect and no investment effect and no growth effect — at whatever time we are, we are at a standstill. This logic defies logic. There is bound to be an additional effect on investment.

We will report on cross-country results at a later date, but we do expect a 2.5 percentage point rise in real investment over the next two years. This will take real investment close to 35.5 per cent of GDP or less than 1.5 percentage points away from the peak of 36.8 per cent reached in 2011 Q3. Needless to say, this is additional demand, and additional GDP in the economy. And needless to add, but this investment increase is unlikely to occur if the RBI/MPC persist with the highest real rates in the world. Just like woman does not live on bread alone, investment is strongly affected by both tax rates and the cost of credit. The other policy shoe needs to fall for acche din to happen.

We can all speculate, and disagree, but there are some incontrovertible facts pertaining to FM Sitharaman's announcement of September 20. Indian (and world) history was made on that date. A reduction of 10 ppt reduction in the corporate tax rate (CTR) is only exceeded by Germany's 15.8 ppt reduction in 2001 and the US's 14 ppt reduction in 2018 (from 35 to 21 per cent). However, for new firms, the reduction of the CTR to 17 per cent (CTR of 15 per cent and surcharges, etc, of 2.2 per cent), an 18 ppt reduction, is the largest on record since 2000 (OECD database). Very likely, such a big reduction is the biggest reduction in the world, ever.

Some Indian economists have asked for a reduction in the CTR for a long, long, time. I say so with some expertise because in none of the traditional economists' pre-Budget consultative meetings over the last 22 years has the argument been made to cut the CTR. The discussion, argument, has always been to raise tax rates to keep the fiscal deficit down (this for more than 99 per cent of the

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participants). Earlier this year, only two economists argued for a cut in CTR — the same two also argued for a cut in the real policy rates. The rest said don't tinker, worry about the fiscal deficit, etc. And yes, some experts said the real policy problem pertaining to Indian GDP growth was that the exchange rate was overvalued. Note that these expert views were made at the time of the lowest real (and nominal) GDP growth in decades.

Hence, when the announcement was made on September 20, there were some who thought this was fake news! That is how much history was in the making.

A real perspective on history is provided via the OECD corporate tax database for close to 60 countries (since 2000). The data has 1,155 observations on CTR and 1,057 country-year observations on change in CTR. For countries with a population above 5 million (682 observations), there are only 161 observations of any change in the tax rate. Of these, 126 show a decline; only 34 show a decline of more than 3 ppt and only 14 countries cut taxes in any year by more than 5 per cent (Germany did it twice 15.8 ppt in 2001 and 10.6 ppt in 2008). Other countries in the club of a 10 per cent cut in CTR are France (2018), Hungary (2017) and Paraguay and Turkey (both in 2006).

India now joins this club of bold tax policy-makers — just 2 per cent of the total changes made in the 21st century. As we said earlier, while data are not easily available, this is possibly in all history, since tax increases, like death, have been a certainty. And large tax cuts have been rarer than the sighting of the blue whale. That is how historic is the decision made in Modi 2.0 and FM NS 1.0. The nation owes a strong debt of gratitude to these two masters of India's economic fate.

We want to end with a speculation. We believe that there is a strong possibility of a final corporate tax cut with the adoption of the direct tax code (DTC). The latter has to happen, and the most likely date is February 2020. The FM has left us with two corporate tax rates — 15 per cent (new manufacturing firms) and 22 per cent (all firms). Maybe the DTC compromise will be somewhere in-between — say 18 per cent for all firms?

Bhalla is contributing editor, The Indian Express. Bhasin is a New Delhi-based policy researcher. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Some Americans see China as a threat. Such mind-set has hindered the development of the bilateral relationship and caused substantial harm to the two sides' national interests."

—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Making crime less dark

Crime data in India is short on information on victims and witnesses. Victimisation surveys can help



G S BAJPAI

THE TRUE EXTENT of crime in a society is seldom known. In times when evidence-based policing and data-driven policies are being advocated, the absence of exact data on crime could pose serious problems. In India, crime is under-reported and under-registered. The official picture with respect to crime in India is difficult to believe for several reasons. While popular perception associates many cities and states in India with crime, going by official statistics, the country has one of the lowest incidence of crime in the world. India's crime rate is 379.3 per 1,00,000 persons. Cases of dacoity, attempt to murder, robbery, rape and riot have gone down by 36.11 per cent, 16.26 per cent, 20.15 per cent, 0.78 per cent and 54 per cent respectively in 2018 as compared to the year before. Who will buy these statistics?

A major source of the problem lies in the manner in which crime data are collected and compiled. Crime data in India are collected and published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The data reported in this publication is based on the crime reported to local police stations. Police stations getting information about crime is one thing and such incidents being recorded as an FIR is another. This is in addition to all kinds of pressures and obstacles on a complainant, especially when the nature of crime is that of sexual assault, domestic violence or when it involves family members, relatives or powerful people. The resistance put up by the police station personnel in registering such crimes or reducing the seriousness of incident is well documented.

The NCRB data fall short of expectations in many respects. For instance, it is short on information about crime victims and witnesses. The official statistics miss out on several key areas: The profile of victims, their personal characteristics, victim-offender relationship, FIR registration experiences, experiences of interacting with police, number of days and time taken in getting FIR registered, instances of intimidation, pressure experienced from the accused or associates including police, nature of injury, medical assistance, information about legal aid, compensation.

A victimisation survey is often seen as a solution to such shortcomings. While many countries have conducted victimisation surveys to supplement their official crime data, India has yet to make a start. Such surveys reveal details that are missed out by the local police. They describe how crime has impacted the lives of victims and convey their safety concerns.

These surveys gather information through personal or telephonic interviews with a set of people who represent the geographical and social correlates of a city or state over a period of time. The information thus collected may detail the victimisation suffered by a person but not recorded by the police for a variety of reasons. The other data which are generally collected in these surveys entail risk and vulnerability, perceptions about the local police and the views of people about the criminal justice system.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) measures the amount of crime by asking people about their experiences as crime victims. In the US, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) presents data that is collected from a nationally-representative sample of about 2,40,000 interviews on criminal victimisation, involving 1,60,000 persons in about 95,000 households. The data generated by such surveys are considered more reliable than the official statistics on crime and this is frequently used for various policy objectives. Such surveys are conducted by professionally-competent organisations and the state funds the processes involved in the generation of data. The European Crime and Safety Survey (EU ICS) is the most comprehensive analysis of crime, security and safety in the European Union. In 1987, the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) launched the International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS), which produces more comparable data across nations. These data are available in the public domain. The public in general is encouraged in all these countries by the state to participate in these surveys with an assurance about the confidentiality of the information they provide.

The data generated by the state in India, in contrast, doesn't inspire public confidence. There are enough reasons to demystify crime and the people's response to it in India. India-specific yardsticks, which the NCRB does not cover, could be evolved. However, there could be several challenges to such surveys. For example, people might not reveal more than what they have divulged to the police. Even then, it is still an endeavour worth attempting. Today, there are several methodological innovations to overcome the bottlenecks.

The government is expected to embark on the country's first victimisation survey soon. The complexity of this endeavour demands that it be assigned to an institution that specialises in criminology, victimology and criminal justice administration. Such a survey is not simply about data collection, it involves nuanced understanding of the facets of crime and victimisation and presupposes specialist knowledge. I hope the home ministry is listening.

The writer is professor and chairperson, Centre for Criminology & Victimology at National Law University Delhi and vice president of Victim Support Asia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOSE WHO INSPIRE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'You can't shop for teachers' (IE, September 26). The regimental approach of mass recruitment for teaching positions in any university might not be the best of ideas. Teaching as a profession should attract self-motivated individuals with not just the prescribed minimum qualification but inner passion. It requires individuals who can inspire their pupils and help in carving out a liberal space for learning and intellectual discourses. Part-time teachers who have the necessary qualifications should be considered for permanent absorption within the ranks over a period of time.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

COMPROMISED COPS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Cop out' (IE, September 27). The UP police has been blatantly shameless in shielding Swami Chinmayanand from the rape charges levelled against him. Its efforts at diluting the case again reinforces the view about the police does the bidding of its political masters. Whether it is conducting allegedly staged encounters or protecting people in power, the conduct of the UP police leaves a lot to be desired.

Vijai Pant Hempur

RIGHTS OF ACCUSED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Exorcising third-degree' (IE, September 27). It is correct that we need an anti-torture law to prevent atrocities committed by police during the course of investigation. It is equally important to train the local police station personnel about scientific ways to extract information from the accused. The SHOs should be made ac-

LETTER OF THE WEEK

THE ROOT CAUSE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Vapourised' (IE, September 20). E-cigarettes are addictive and come with health hazards. As a measure to prevent health-related risks, banning nicotine products is not problematic. And to give the government the benefit of doubt, let's even assume that its intentions behind the move to ban e-cigarettes were genuine. But why not attack the root rather than the secondary cause? All cigarettes are injurious to health; the ones more injurious can stay, others must be banned.

Srishti Mathur, Ujjain

countable for the health of the accused. This would discourage them from taking recourse to violence and save innocents from getting tortured. Remember, the right to not be tortured is a part of the constitutional Right to Life.

Shishir Singh, Prayagraj

STATE AND TRUST

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why property rights matter' (IE, 27th Sept 19). The authors have gone to the nub of many ills of the country's economy and polity. They rightly point out that institutions engaged in governance must earn the trust of citizens.

Vinod Dhall, Gurgaon



SHIVANI NAIK

Of sour grapes

The move to quit Commonwealth Games on flimsy grounds is unfair to athletes

IT NEEDED A Shah Rukh Khan film (*Chak De! India*, 2007) to put the focus on Suraj Lata Devi and Mamta Kharab — five years after India's 2002 Commonwealth Games (CWG) gold in women's hockey. India had beaten England for the CWG gold then, defeating Australia in the semifinals, and it wasn't a lightweight achievement.

Except, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) boss, Narinder Batra, now calls the Commonwealth Games a "waste of time" because "the level of competition isn't high". His grouse is that India wins anything between 70 and 100 medals at the CWG, but just two at the Olympics — so the conversion is abysmal. India won 57 medals at the Asiad before the 2016 Rio Olympics, but no one talks of dumping that one.

The Indian men's hockey team has never won a CWG gold. Because, as Batra will notice, Australia tends to be very high competition. The event is not a waste if it has unearthed gems like Ashish Kumar and Dipa Karmakar in gymnastics. Saina Nehwal, Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponappa's first flush of finals' success also came at the CWG, followed by the World Championship and Olympic medals. Manika Batra, with her twin gold performance in table tennis, was a revelation at the CWG Gold Coast. Clearly, the gains — if not squandered — can convert

to Olympic success, if everyone concerned maintains perspective.

Here is where Batra's views are coming from: Sports like shooting, wrestling, weightlifting, and even badminton and table tennis, are low-hanging fruit at the CWG. They rake in a bunch of medals for India, though the player still has to make the effort of actually plucking that fruit. What needs to be painfully pointed out to the IOA, is that India has had little success to show in what are acknowledged as the Big 3 of sports — track & field, swimming and gymnastics. Hockey has repeatedly exposed India's weaknesses against high competition and a boxing medal isn't exactly a cakewalk. India chooses to stay blind to team sports like netball, basketball, beach volleyball and Rugby sevens. But that points to their blinkers, not the low competition available.

India goes medal-grabbing against low competition at the Asian Games too, hoarding gold medals by the dozen there, especially in athletics, and then zero at the Olympics. The takeaway can't be that we stop competing, especially when — except in badminton and tennis — Indian athletes are competition-shy throughout the year, and will even avoid trials if they can. Kabaddi used to be India's stomping ground against low competition, until Iran decided they'll have a mighty chuckle last year: It'll be foolish to say India should stop

going to Asiad.

At the heart of this outrageous idea of junking CWG altogether is the 2022 Birmingham CWG's decision to drop shooting from the programme, and India throwing a fit — offended that it'll drop down in the medals tally. "Colonial things" like having no Indian on 13 CWG committees are being mooted as possible reasons to evict a sport that does tend to be clunky and expensive with its infrastructure and, frankly, not quite a darling of television.

Glasgow, where Andy Murray was born, dropped tennis from its 2014 CWG programme, though it is the host nation's prerogative to pick their sports.

But it is in India's completely cynical reaction to shooting being dropped — attributing racism and colonialism to the decision — that the debate got really muddled. It might still be some brinkmanship ahead of the Commonwealth Games Federation chief's India visit in November, but it appears a plan is being made to basically sit at home with a mighty sulk.

Great sporting nations don't sulk. They get cracking on the new rules of the game, and prove a point on the sports field. This might be a good opportunity to make up for all the years of lagging behind in swimming, gymnastics and athletics — where high stan-

dards are available at the CWG; start building teams in more mainstream and popular sports; and, not remain myopic and hung up on medals that won't come this time around from shooting.

For non-Olympic squash players like Dipika Pallikal, Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal, the CWG is as big as it gets. And, the IOA might want to leave it to the likes of Rani Rampaul and Lalremisiami in hockey and cricketers like Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues to get on with their unfinished business with England. The hockey players have high standards — set 20 years ago by Suraj Lata's team — to match. And the cricketers (Women's T20 is set to debut at Birmingham) would want a shot at the inaugural CWG title, beating England in the finals hopefully. If Batra would only notice, India's men and women tend to be good at "colonial things" like settling scores on the field: Parupalli Kashyap was playing out of his skin against England's Rajeev Joseph in the semifinals at Glasgow in 2014, before going on to win the finals. The IOA, meanwhile, was famously trying to secure the release of some reckless Indian officials who were caught by Scotland police authorities for some allegedly embarrassing activities. CWG is for the athletes.

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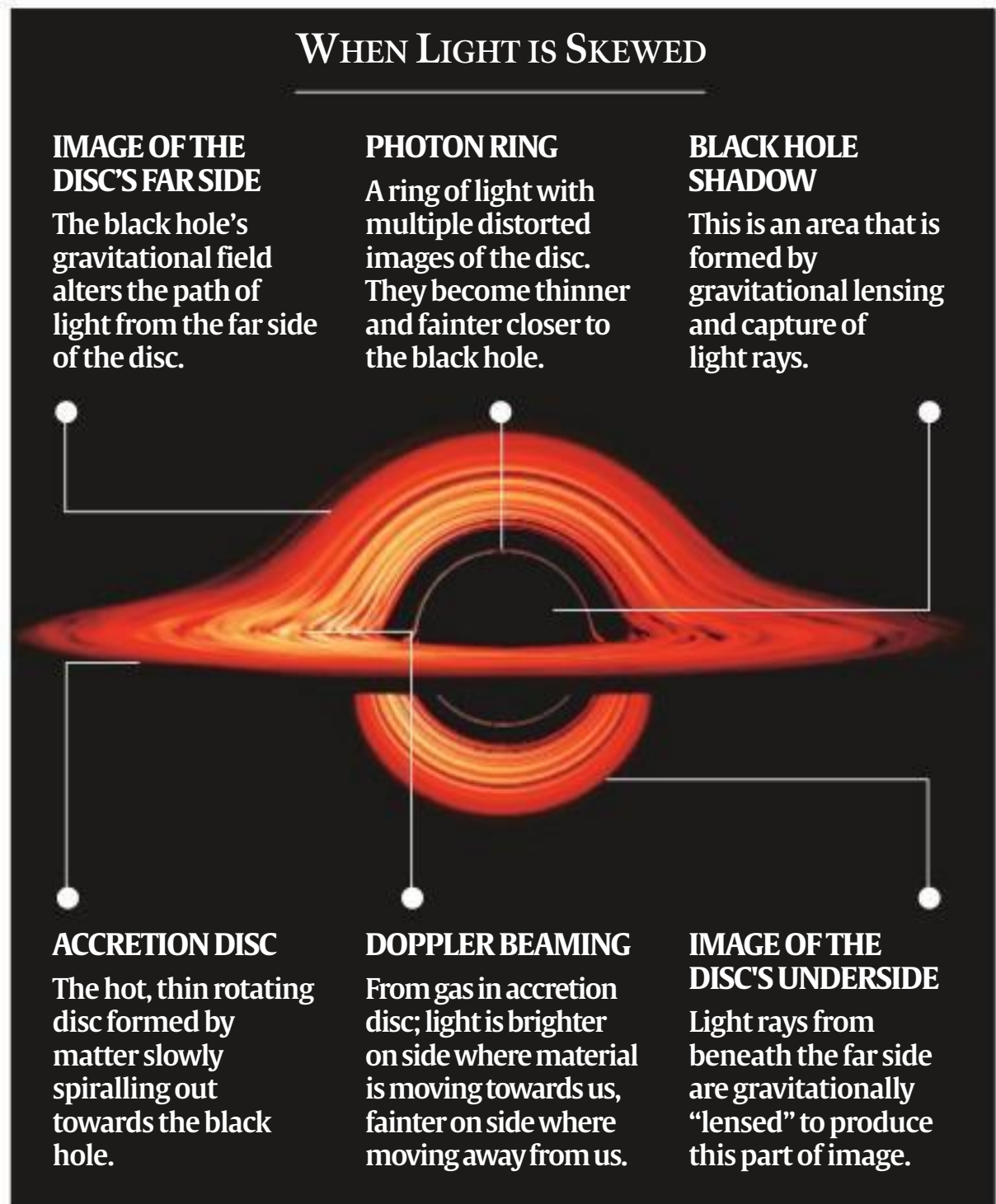
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2	8659	M/S CHAUDHARI FARE PRAIS SHOP	8285290281	1 - NARELA	197	9511	M/S BHIM SHANKAR	931243438	46-CHHATTARPUR
3	9164	RAVI PROVISION STORE	9810749400	1 - NARELA	198	7549	M/S GUPTA PRAVILJAN STORE	991089750	47 - DEOLI
4	6600	M/S SATYAPRAKASH RAJ SINGH	931336045	1 - NARELA	199	7481	M/S PAHADYA STORE	925600284	47 - DEOLI
5	7041	M/S FARE DEAL STORE	852747507	10 - SULTANPUR MAJRA	200	6528	M/S SURESH KUMAR CHANDER SEN	996809659	47 - DEOLI
6	6445	M/S TOMAR STORE	9971012388	10 - SULTANPUR MAJRA	201	5839	M/S KALASH CHAND	9885854084	47 - DEOLI
7	6143	M/S PRITHVI CHAND VINOD KUMAR	9990141239	10 - SULTANPUR MAJRA	202	5844	M/S BALKUMAR GOYAL	9892021176	47 - DEOLI
8	6487	HOUSE M A M CHAND RAM KUMAR	9911046410	10 - SULTANPUR MAJRA	203	4991	M/S RAM SAHAY	7428520404	48 - AMBEDKAR NAGAR
9	6994	M/S SEVA RAM	827611940	10 - SULTANPUR MAJRA	204	7812	M/S BARJANG STORE	9871614251	48 - AMBEDKAR NAGAR
10	4347	M/S RAM CHANDER BHAGWAT PRASAD	921052239	10 - SULTANPUR MAJRA	205	8521	M/S SHYAM CHAND	9910152239	48 - AMBEDKAR NAGAR
11	4097	M/S ASHOKA GRAN DEPT	981818508	11 - NANGLOI JAT	206	8511	M/S LAXMI STORE	9999169394	48 - AMBEDKAR NAGAR
12	923621060	M/S JAGDISH JAT	700612007	11 - NANGLOI JAT	207	7006	M/S JAGDAMBA STORE	9999169394	48 - AMBEDKAR NAGAR
13	6763	M/S GIRIRAJ PRASAD AND BROS	9999889274	11 - NANGLOI JAT	208	6633	M/S BRJU KISHOR DUSHYANT KUMAR	9811670078	49 - SANGAM VIHAR
14	4098	M/S HARDWAR LAL	8860022419	11 - NANGLOI JAT	209	6632	M/S DAL CHAND	9013221333	49 - SANGAM VIHAR
15	7718	M/S DURGHA PROVISION STORE	9212120338	11 - NANGLOI JAT	210	6503	M/S ARORA STORE	9899964640	49 - SANGAM VIHAR
16	6213	M/S BHUSHAN STORE	9818113146	12 - MANGOLPURI	211	6550	M/S MOHD. FAROOQH	9891190773	49 - SANGAM VIHAR
17	6493	M/S JAI PAL SINGH & KRISHAN	9540155465	12 - MANGOLPURI	212	6331	M/S KISHAN SIEH	931285001	5 - BADLI
18	7718	M/S ARVIND BROTHERS	965340611	12 - MANGOLPURI	213	3668	M/S RATN LAL	9853170727	5 - BADLI
19	5121	M/S PRABHU SINGH AND CO	9999110141	12 - MANGOLPURI	214	6851	M/S NARSINGH CHAWLA	9210000094	5 - BADLI
20	4011	M/S PARAMESHWAR DASS RAM NIWAS	9210778769	12 - MANGOLPURI	215	7431	M/S DVIKAR STORE	9136041425	5 - BADLI
21	4408	M/S GIRI RAJ STORE	9910007687	13 - ROHINI	216	9201	M/S SUNDER LAL ROSHAN LAL	9313866669	5 - BADLI
22	8429	M/S PUSHP LATA RISHI PRAKASH	931312604	13 - ROHINI	217	5844	M/S VINOD KUMAR	8800227132	50 - GREATER KAILASH
23	8404	SAUNJY STORE	9891233607	13 - ROHINI	218	7833	M/S JANTA FAIR PRICE SHOP	9810623935	50 - GREATER KAILASH
24	5940	M/S AGRAWAL PROVISION STORE	9213434389	13 - ROHINI	219	6812	M/S KAMAL STORE	9816810089	50 - GREATER KAILASH
25	8859	M/S JAI SHRI RAM	9810875665	14 - SHALIMAR BAGH	220	5159	M/S GOOHA RAM JAGADISH KUMAR	9818675248	51 - KALKAJI
26	6395	M/S JANTA STORE	9891966751	14 - SHALIMAR BAGH	221	6338	M/S BANSAL STORE	9211302999	51 - KALKAJI
27	824	M/S SRIKRISHN ASHOK KUMAR	9999265246	14 - SHALIMAR BAGH	222	7498	M/S JANTA STORE	9717102426	51 - KALKAJI
28	6425	M/S GUPTA STORE	9212608020	14 - SHALIMAR BAGH	223	5437	M/S JAGADISH KUMAR GUPTA	9312801065	51 - KALKAJI
29	4422	M/S GAYATRI STORE	9811143663	14 - SHALIMAR BAGH	224	7518	M/S BANSAL STORE	9810916186	51 - KALKAJI
30	6525	M/S VIJAY FAIR PRICE SHOP	9312216222	15 - SHAKUR BASTI	225	8623	M/S KASANA STORE	9810477599	52 - TUGHLAKABAD
31	7055	M/S SHANTI STORE	9968241131	15 - SHAKUR BASTI	226	6991	M/S PREM GENERAL STORE	955647937	52 - TUGHLAKABAD
32	6533	M/S MURLI KRISHNA PROVISION STORE	9212154845	15 - SHAKUR BASTI	227	8925	M/S R K STORE	9312843438	52 - TUGHLAKABAD
33	5358	M/S BITTU STORE	9312899015	16 - TRI NAGAR	228	8690	M/S JAI MAAN BHAGVATI STORE	9911327108	52 - TUGHLAKABAD
34	6591	M/S GARG STORE	9215449844	16 - TRI NAGAR	229	7841	M/S GUPTA STORE	9276242036	52 - TUGHLAKABAD
35	6588	M/S R K SHARMA	9891374872	16 - TRI NAGAR	230	7827	M/S DIPA STORE	8750171811	53 - BADAPUR
36	590	M/S KAVAR LAL RATN LAL	9811204880	16 - TRI NAGAR	231	7547	M/S JAGADISH STORE	9818730104	53 - BADAPUR
37	4140	M/S GULJARI LAL YOGESH CHANDER	9210083576	16 - TRI NAGAR	232	9026	M/S DHARMENDER STORE	9910981932	53 - BADAPUR
38	600	M/S DHARMASINHI SHYAM LAL	9811566856	16 - TRI NAGAR	233	9029	M/S SATAGURU STORE	8743996713	53 - BADAPUR
39	601	M/S PRATAP SINGH RAKESH KUMAR	9899665253	16 - TRI NAGAR	234	6101	M/S M A M CHAND ANIL KUMAR	9811313660	53 - BADAPUR
40	6189	M/S SATYA KUMAR DIPAK KUMAR	9899665253	17 - WAZIRPUR	235	9044	M/S LALIT STORE	9891730169	54 - OKHLA
41	7376	M/S PRAGATI STORE	9899665253	17 - WAZIRPUR	236	8809	58 TAJMUR NAGAR	9312414577	54 - OKHLA
42	7430	M/S GOYAL PROVIJAN STORE	9899665253	17 - WAZIRPUR	237	7524	M/S ASHOK STORE	9210078142	54 - OKHLA
43	1166	M/S KULDEEP	9811321574	17 - WAZIRPUR	238	5430	M/S KAMLA GENERAL STORE	9810286237	54 - OKHLA
44	6449	M/S ASHOK KUMAR SINGHAL	9899062000	17 - WAZIRPUR	239	5114	M/S KAMAL KUMAR GUPTA	9953155519	54 - OKHLA
45	6619	M/S MODEL TOWN	9298916469	18 - MODEL TOWN	240	5312	M/S MAHAN LAL DHARAMVIR	9717867103	55 - TILOK PURI
46	4063	M/S RAM KUMAR ASHOK KUMAR	9810752472	18 - MODEL TOWN	241	6979	M/S SATABIR RASHAN SHOP	9810205518	55 - TILOK PURI
47	3043	M/S VIJAY KUMAR BHARAT BHUSHAN	9811860331	18 - MODEL TOWN	242	4240	M/S OM PRAKASH ROSHAN LAL	9313467241	55 - TILOK PURI
48	684	M/S SHY LAL OM PRAKASH	9891051552	18 - MODEL TOWN	243	4903	M/S BIHARI LAL GOYAL	9212226869	55 - TILOK PURI
49	9426	M/s Balaji Store		18-MODEL TOWN	244	7235	M/S MOHAR SINGH TEJ	9810918256	55 - TILOK PURI
50	7329	M/S AGRAWAL AND BROTHERS	9211094591	19 - SADAR BAZAR	245	8544	M/S PANKAJ STORE	9910019302	56 - KONDLI
51	528	M/S R C BAHAL	9213785323	19 - SADAR BAZAR	246	8039	M/S NAVIN STORE	9811159556	56 - KONDLI
52	7320	M/S SHIV KHADY BHANDAR	9213785323	19 - SADAR BAZAR	247	6828	M/S RAHUL PROVISION STORE	9560698909	56 - KONDLI
53	1522	M/S OM PRAKASH UPPAL	9999926837	19 - SADAR BAZAR	248	8943	M/S NIKHIL STORE	9917917260	56 - KONDLI
54	4487	Rachey Rachey Store		19-SADAR BAZAR	249	7891	M/S SINGH STORE	9910675756	57 - PATARGANJ
55	5058	M/S HANS RAJ CHAWLA	9212055984	2 - BURARI	250	7226	M/S GOPI CHAND	9713128487	57 - PATARGANJ
56	5398	M/S VINOD KUMAR MUNNA LAL	9212769691	2 - BURARI	251	7890	M/S CHHIDDAMAL GOYAL	9910675756	57 - PATARGANJ
57	7444	M/S ADARSH STORE	9210464235	2 - BURARI	252	7182	M/S GUPTA PROVISION STORE	9811328622	57 - PATARGANJ
58	4378	M/S ANIL KUMAR BRAJ KISHOR	9313948028	2 - BURARI	253	6969	M/S KHICCHU MAL NAYAK	9712124693	57 - PATARGANJ
59	4388	M/S JANTA STORE	9811126988	2 - BURARI	254	7891	M/S NIMTI PROVISION STORE	9810185232	57 - PATARGANJ
60	4959	M/S JOHARI MAL HUKAM CHAND	9810418808	20 - CHANDNI CHOWK	255	5058	M/S SURENDER KUMAR GUPTA	9891100402	58 - LAXMI NAGAR
61	7140	M/S BHATHYA PROVIJAN STORE	9211602530	20 - CHANDNI CHOWK	256	7102	M/S SINGHAL PRAAO STORE	9910286313	58 - LAXMI NAGAR
62	7389	M/S BHARAT PROVISIONAL STORE	9899950310	21 - MATIA MAHAL	257	5477	M/S SHYAM STORE	9891613617	58 - LAXMI NAGAR
63	1237	M/S JANTA PROVISIONAL STORE	987322067	21 - MATIA MAHAL	258	4899	M/S JANTA STORE	9891263236	58 - LAXMI NAGAR
64	1152	M/S MOH. ASLAM	9899898544	21 - MATIA MAHAL	259	8628	M/S JAI SHRI RAM STORE	9650446703	58 - LAXMI NAGAR
65	6410	M/S BHAGWAN DAS PREM NARAYAN	9811473422	21 - MATIA MAHAL	260	8490	M/S PRINCE STORE	9826335649	59 - VISHWAS NAGAR
66	7591	M/S JAIN STORE	9811473422	21 - MATIA MAHAL	261	8150	EKTA MAHILA BACHAT SAMUH	9718156289	59 - VISHWAS NAGAR
67	1052	M/S CHANDARSHKEKHAR	9818237668	22 - BALLIMARAN	262	6776	M/S TYAGI STORE	9810426285	59 - VISHWAS NAGAR
68	531	M/S RAGHUBIR SINGH JAIN	9953411442	22 - BALLIMARAN	263	8044	M/S D C W S LTD.	9891453940	59 - VISHWAS NAGAR
69	9106	Mobile Van(DSCSC)	9714065454	22 - BALLIMARAN	264	8850	M/S MANISH GOYAL	9313543829	6 - RITHALA
70	7171	M/S SHRIDHARA CONSUMER STORE LTD	9811436638	22 - BALLIMARAN	265	8327	M/S KAMAL STORE	7053534027	6 - RITHALA
71	5558	M/S NARESH KUMAR	9899676988	22 - BALLIMARAN	266	9303	M/s BAIRANG STORE	9266680900	6 - RITHALA
72	1465	M/S RAM PRAKASH	9213738920	23 - KAROL BAGH	267	9398	M/S JAI MATI STORE	9717917239	6 - RITHALA
73	1440	M/S HASARAHGAWAN	9873910460	23 - KAROL BAGH	268	9891	M/S SHIV SHAKTI	9212396640	6 - RITHALA
74	6741	M/S TEJAL GUPTA	9211960214	23 - KAROL BAGH	269	302	M/S MULLA MAL HARABANS LAL	9971465436	60 - KRISHNA NAGAR
75	8360	M/S NARAYAN SINGH AND SONS	9873752370	23 - KAROL BAGH	270	7157	M/S RAJASTHAN PROVIJAN STORE	8800722730	60 - KRISHNA NAGAR
76	7573	M/S FULCHAND YOGENDERKUMAR	9811973818	23 - KAROL BAGH	271	6181	M/S LAXMI GREEN STORE	9811851619	60 - KRISHNA NAGAR
77	3167	M/S MANSARA RAM SATISH KUMAR	9818302149	24 - PATEL NAGAR	272	5170	M/S RAVI STORE	9136180946	60 - KRISHNA NAGAR
78	1518	M/S DAMAPAT MAL RAJENDER PRASAD	9811973818	24 - PATEL NAGAR	273	7257	M/S VARUN PROVIJAN STORE	9212210633	60 - KRISHNA NAGAR
79	6294	M/S SADHURAM BHUPENDER KUMAR	9999672888	24 - PATEL NAGAR	274	6753	M/S MITTAL STORE	9910048621	61 - GANDHI NAGAR
80	6235	M/S KASHMIRI LAL RAKESH KUMAR	9295057626	24 - PATEL NAGAR	275	6119	M/S KESAR DAS AND SONS	9717718387	61 - GANDHI NAGAR
81	750	M/S NARSINGH DAS BIHARI LAL	9899182750	24 - PATEL NAGAR	276	6698	M/S OM SHIV GENERAL STORE	9898187504	61 - GANDHI NAGAR
82	6745	M/S PREM KUMAR LAMBA	9818154687	25 - MOTI NAGAR	277	4073	M/S SOM NATHI SUDARSHAN KUMAR	9560788240	61 - GANDHI NAGAR
83	1876	M/S RAJ KIRANA STORE	9999783724	25 - MOTI NAGAR	278	7232	M/S VINOD KUMAR AMIT KUMAR	8750477589	61 - GANDHI NAGAR
84	5389	M/S SANT LAL BROTHERS	9818154687	25 - MOTI NAGAR	279	7263	M/S PRAHLAD RAI AND SONS	9568532946	62 - SHAHDARA
85	7696	M/S BHAGVATI STORE	97178989						

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

HOW GRAVITY DISTORTS OUR VIEW OF A BLACK HOLE



Source: NASA

A NEW visualisation of a black hole, released by NASA, illustrates how its gravity distorts our view by warping its surroundings. The visualisation simulates the appearance of a black hole where infalling matter has collected into a thin, hot structure called an accretion disc (see illustration). The black hole's extreme gravity skews light emitted by different regions of the disc, producing the misshapen appearance, NASA explained in the release.

As magnetic fields twist through the churning gas, bright knots form and dissipate in the disc. In the area closest to the black hole, the gas orbits at close to the speed of light. The outer portions spin a bit more slowly. This difference stretches and shears the bright knots, producing light and dark lanes in the disk.

"Seen nearly edgewise, the turbulent disc of gas churning around a black hole takes on a crazy double-humped appearance," NASA said. The black hole's extreme gravity alters the paths of light coming from different parts of the disc, producing the warped image. Exactly what we see depends on our viewing angle; the greatest distortion occurs when viewing the system nearly edgewise.

"Viewed from the side, the disc looks brighter on the left than it does on the right," NASA added. Glowing gas on the left side moves toward us so fast that the effects of Einstein's relativity give it a boost in brightness. On the right side, gas moving away becomes slightly dimmer. This asymmetry disappears when we see the disc exactly face on because, from that perspective, none of the material is moving along our line of sight.

THIS WORD MEANS
GOLDSCHMIDTITE

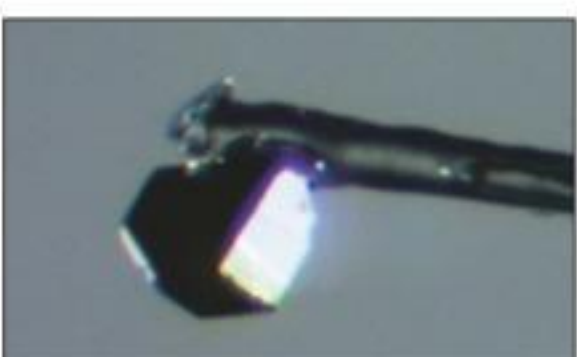
A new mineral from the Earth's mantle, found inside a diamond in South Africa. How important can it be?

A NEW, curious mineral has been discovered inside a diamond unearthed from a mine in South Africa. The mineral has been named goldschmidtite, after Victor Moritz Goldschmidt, the Norwegian scientist acknowledged as the founder of modern geochemistry. It has been described in the journal *American Mineralogist*.

Goldschmidtite has an unusual chemical signature for a mineral from Earth's mantle, according to the University of Alberta, a student of which discovered it. While the mantle is dominated by elements such as magnesium and iron, goldschmidtite has high concentrations of niobium, potassium and the rare earth elements lanthanum and cerium.

PhD student Nicole Meyer found a single grain of the mineral in the diamond, unearthed in Koffiefontein, South Africa. The university described it as dark green and opaque.

Though the mantle makes up about 80 per cent of the Earth's volume, very little is



Tiny sample found inside diamond.
Nicole Meyer/University of Alberta

known about it. Reaching the mantle is not easy; it is about 2,900 km thick and no attempt to drill into it has been successful. Diamonds hold clues as they are found up to 160 km beneath the surface, in the upper mantle. Diamonds that are unearthed were brought up closer to the surface, probably as a result of violent volcanic eruptions when the Earth was hotter, according to the *Smithsonian Magazine*.

Why latest IPCC report matters

This one is on oceans, released this week. It adds to evidence in previous IPCC and other reports that call for urgent action to reduce emissions. A look at what various reports have said, and their significance

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 27

A NEW report on oceans by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released on Wednesday, has given further strength to growing demands for more aggressive climate action from world leaders, especially those representing the big emitters. The report has come close on the heels of a special climate change 'action' summit organised by UN Secretary General António Guterres in New York at the beginning of the annual UN General Assembly session, and has added to mounting evidence calling for urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

What are all these reports about?

The latest report, on Ocean and Cryosphere, is the last in a series of three that the IPCC had been asked to produce to assess the impacts of climate change on specific themes. The first of these, examining the feasibility of restricting global rise in temperatures to within 1.5°C from pre-industrial times, was submitted in October last year. It was followed in August this year by a report on how land systems contribute to and are impacted by climate change.

In between, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a IPCC-like scientific body that examines scientific literature on biodiversity, came up with a first-of-its-kind report on the state of nature and how it was being affected by climate change.

There have been other reports as well. The World Meteorological Organization produced a report this month that said that the period 2015-19 was the warmest five-year period on record, and that July this year was the hottest month on record globally.

On May 11 this year, global concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was measured to have crossed the 415 parts per million (ppm) mark for the first time ever. This concentration varies from day to day, month to month and season to season, and has come down from that peak now.

What does all this mean?

There is already a lot of irrefutable scientific evidence to suggest that human activities have been altering climate in a way that would have disastrous consequences for the planet. But the action being taken by the countries have



Wednesday's news conference in Monaco, where the IPCC presented the special report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate Context. Reuters

been assessed to be woefully inadequate. These new reports seek to underline the enormity of the problem, and the urgency required to deal with it. At the same time, each of them emphasises that if proportionate action is initiated immediately, the most catastrophic impacts can still be avoided.

The IPCC special report on the 1.5°C goal, for example, said it was possible to keep the rise in temperature to within 1.5°C, but for that the world would need to bring down its greenhouse gas emissions to half of its 2010 levels by 2030, and to net zero by 2050. Net-zero is achieved when the total emissions is balanced by the amount of absorption of carbon dioxide through natural sinks like forests, or removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through technological interventions.

Following this report, pressure has been building up on countries to commit to a net-zero target by 2050. Some countries have already announced their intention to achieve this target, but the most prominent emitters — China, US, India — have so far not done so.

The land report released in August said the various kinds of uses that land was being put to — forestry, agriculture, industries, urbanisation — had contributed about 5.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year between 2007 and 2016. During the same time, trees and forests absorbed almost 11.2

Why so many reports now?

It is not unusual to see the conversation around climate change picking up during this time of the year, in the run-up to the annual two-week climate change conference that takes place in November or December. But there are also other reasons for the sudden rise in attention to the climate debate this year. Last year's IPCC report on 1.5°C mentioned that humanity had barely 12 years to keep alive the hopes of restricting global temperature rise to within 1.5°C from pre-industrial times. This was contingent not just on immediate aggressive action from countries, but also on development of technologies that could remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This report has instilled a new sense of urgency in climate conversations.

Next year, 2020, happens to be the transition year for the international climate regime, from the Kyoto Protocol to the Paris Agreement. The Kyoto regime has been a major underachiever in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement, in so far as it makes it mandatory for every country to initiate actions and not just rich and developed nations as under the Kyoto Protocol, is expected to deliver much better results. As required by the Paris Agreement, every country had already finalised and submitted a climate action plan, called Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs, in 2015. The NDCs currently submitted have targets or action plans for 2025 or 2030. The assessment of several NDCs has concluded that these actions were not adequate to achieve the global goal of keeping temperature rise within 2°C from pre-industrial times. But the NDCs have to be updated every five years, and the countries are scheduled to do it next year.

Those concerned about climate change are hoping that in the light of these reports, and growing fresh evidence, countries will show greater ambition when they update their NDCs next year. The Paris Agreement also provides for a review of all climate actions in 2023 to assess whether the individual actions of countries were adding up to what was required to achieve the goal. Countries can then decide what more needed to be done.

However, it is being argued now that 2023 might be too late for such an exercise. Therefore, a momentum is being built to nudge the countries to announce more ambitious actions before that. The move to get countries to commit to a net-zero target by 2050 is a part of these efforts.

Soot found in placenta: is foetus at risk?

particles of black carbon accumulating on the side of the placenta that faces the foetus. The particles were embedded in the placentas, implying that this had happened before the babies were born.

"We ruled out that our findings were just confounded by soot particles of the air which were on the surface of the placenta after birth," environmental scientist Tim Nawhort of Hasselt University, Belgium, told *The Indian Express* in an email.

Black carbon particles are a key part of particulate matter. It is one of the byproducts from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, petrol and wood. Because of their small size, particulate matter, including black carbon particles, can be easily inhaled and can pass through the throat and into the rest of the body.

Previous studies have established a connection between prenatal exposure to ambient air pollution and impaired birth out-

comes. None of the previous studies, however, had established that nanoparticles could cross the placental barrier as a result of inhalation in real-life settings.

How the study was conducted

The researchers chose 20 women in Northeast Belgium, 10 of whom were living in areas of high black carbon exposure and 10 in areas where exposure to black carbon was low. All the women were non-smokers. Additionally, five samples were taken from mothers who suffered miscarriages between 12 and 31 weeks of pregnancy.

For the first set of 20 women, the placentas were taken 10 minutes after the babies were born, and biopsies were carried out on both the maternal and the foetal sides. While black carbon particles were found in all samples, the amount varied by residential address — an average 9,500 particles per cubic mm for low-exposure areas and about 20,000 particles per cubic mm for high-exposure areas.

Why it is a concern

The placenta is the sole point of contact between the mother and the foetus, carrying oxygen and nutrients from the mother's blood supply to the foetus. Essentially, it is a temporary organ that keeps separate the mother's and the baby's blood supply, while also being a link between the two. The finding is a signal of the health effects that air pollution could have even before birth.

"Because the particles are at the foetal side of the placenta and this side interacts directly with the foetal blood flow, it is very reasonable to assume that the foetus is directly exposed," Nawhort said. He added that soot particles may cause DNA damage and air pollution in general can impact cellular ageing, cognitive development and can lead to lower birth weight.

Lower exposure to air pollution is the only way that the foetus can be protected, he said.

Ranitidine under scanner: what is this drug, and should Indian users worry?

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

INDIA'S DRUG regulator this week began looking into concerns of potential cancer-causing substances contaminating popular acidity drug ranitidine. The move came over a week after the US Food and Drug Administration flagged the issue to American patients, some companies have suspended sales of the product worldwide, and some other countries have ordered recalls of the product:

What is ranitidine, and how widespread is its use in India?

Ranitidine, popularly known through brand names like Aciloc, Zinetac, Rantac and Rantac-OD, R-Loc and Ranitin, is an over-the-counter, prescription antacid used in the treatment of acid reflux and peptic ulcer diseases. It is commonly used to relieve acid-related indigestion and heartburn by decreasing stomach acid production. While other medicines like pantoprazole and omeprazole too treat these symptoms and are more commonly prescribed today, ran-

itidine is still widely used in India.

"Ranitidine is a much older medication, but it was always thought to be a very safe drug because it has less side effects than the other drugs that patients use nowadays to treat these symptoms," said Dr S Chatterjee, senior consultant-internal medicine at Delhi's Indraprastha Apollo Hospital.

In the 12 months ended August 2019, the ranitidine molecule alone (excluding combinations it was part of) made nearly Rs 690 crore in sales, according to pharmaceutical market research firm AIOCD Awacs PharmaTrac.

What is the problem?

On September 13, the US FDA stated in a release that it had learned that some ranitidine medicines contained "low levels" of a substance called N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA). An environmental contaminant found in water and foods, NDMA has been classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as probably carcinogenic to humans, which means it has the potential to cause cancer. This is the same impurity that the US FDA had investigated in blood pressure drugs valsartan and losar-

TOP 5 RANITIDINE BRANDS IN INDIA		
Brand	Company	Market Size*
Aciloc	Cadila Pharmaceuticals	Rs 244.70 cr
Zinetac	GSK	Rs 209.10 cr
Rantac	JB Chemicals	Rs 153.10 cr
R-Loc	Zydus Cadila	Rs 28.40 cr
Ranitin	Torrent Pharmaceuticals	Rs 12.40 cr
*Moving annual turnover for the 12 months ended August 2019 Source: AIOCD Awacs PharmaTrac		



tan over the last year.

How has India's drug regulator responded?

India's top drug regulator Monday wrote to state regulators asking them to direct ranitidine active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturers to "verify their products and take appropriate measures to ensure patient safety". Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) V G Somani, in his letter, asked states to inform him of action taken in this matter "at the earliest". So far,

the DCGI has not called for any halting of supplies, which means the ranitidine brands marketed in the country can continue to be sold until further notice.

APIs are the ingredients that give a medicine its therapeutic effect. According to industry sources, most of the world's supply of the ranitidine API comes from two Indian firms — Saraca Laboratories and SMS Lifesciences.

Should consumers be worried?

The DCGI has not clarified whether doc-

tors and consumers in India should use ranitidine with caution, nor has the US FDA called for individuals to stop taking the drug at this time.

"Although NDMA may cause harm in large amounts, the levels the FDA is finding in ranitidine from preliminary tests barely exceed amounts you might expect to find in common foods," stated the US FDA, adding it was evaluating whether these levels of the substance posed a risk to patients.

How have companies selling ranitidine in India responded?

At least two of the companies marketing top ranitidine brands here have decided to take precautionary measures like halting sales while investigations into their safety are in progress. This includes GSK, which publicly announced a voluntary recall of its Zinetac brand on Wednesday.

Torrent Pharmaceuticals, too, has "stopped the sales of this product" till it concludes a "detailed assessment" of its Ranitin. JB Chemicals, testing its Rantac and Rantac-OD, plans to take a final call on sales of products "once the results are out", according to the company's president, Pranabh Mody.

SMS is evaluating its ranitidine API to ensure it is "void of this NDMA impurity or are within permissible limits" and that it foresees "business as usual" until then.

According to GSK, the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) has suspended Saraca Laboratories' certificate of suitability for its ranitidine API "with immediate effect." It is unclear what action Saraca is taking.

It is not clear at this stage whether what Cadila Pharmaceuticals, which markets top-selling brand Aciloc in India, and Zydus Cadila, which markets 'R-Loc', are planning to do.

How have other countries responded?

While India and the US are still looking into the issue, regulators of around 15 countries are learnt to have called for recalls of ranitidine sold in their markets. These include Singapore, Canada, Italy, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Switzerland and Pakistan.

Singapore's Health Sciences Authority has said the potential risk of nitrosamines like NDMA is associated with "long term exposure" and patients prescribed the drug for short term use "may continue with their medicine".

TOPOF THE WORLD



Vladimir Putin

RUSSIA

‘Hope US won’t release Trump, Putin calls’

Moscow: Russia voiced hope Friday that the US wouldn’t publish conversations between the two nations’ presidents. The rough transcript of Trump’s call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy released by the White House Wednesday shows Trump urged Ukraine to “look into” political rival Joe Biden. Asked if Moscow is worried that the US could transcripts of Trump’s calls with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said “we would like to hope it wouldn’t come to that in our relations, which are already troubled...”

PAKISTAN

Brother of social media star jailed for her murder

Lahore: Pakistani social media star Qandeel Baloch’ brother was sentenced to life imprisonment by a court on Friday for murdering her in an apparent case of honour killing. Fouzia Azeem, better known as Qandeel was strangled to death at her home in Multan, Punjab province, on July 15, 2016. Sessions Court Multan Judge Imran Shafi announced his verdict in the case in the presence of all suspects and parents of Baloch, 26. While the court awarded life imprisonment to brother of Qandeel, Muhammad Wasim, it acquitted all other suspects

INDONESIA

Quake death toll rises to 23

Jakarta: The death toll from an earthquake that rocked Indonesia’s remote Maluku islands has risen to 23, the disaster agency said Friday, as more than 15,000 people were evacuated to shelters. Terrified residents ran into the streets as buildings fell in around them with the 6.5-magnitude tremor sparking landslides that buried at least one victim Thursday. Among the dead was an infant, with many killed by falling debris in and around quake-struck Ambon city. “The total number of people who died is 23,” national disaster mitigation agency spokesman Agus Wibowo said in a statement.

LARGEST PROTESTS UNDER CURRENT REGIME

Egypt in turmoil, over 2,000 held amid calls for ‘million-man march’

Police seal off Tahrir Square, key site of 2011 Arab Spring protests

AGENCIES

CAIRO, SEPTEMBER 27

THE PLAINCLOTHES security men stood every few yards along the bridge over the Nile, T-shirts tight across their muscled chests, guns at their hips, stopping young men to ask for identification and look through their phones. They were delivering a message that did not need to be spoken aloud.

Since a handful of surprise protests against President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi flared around Egypt last weekend, the largest since he came to power in 2014, the government has tightened its grip, arresting nearly 2,000 Egyptians, packing Cairo and other protest hot spots with security personnel



There are no reasons for concern. Egypt is a strong country thanks to Egyptians”

— ABDEL AL-SISI

EGYPT’S PRESIDENT, AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

and blocking news websites. News website *Aljazeera* reported that there were calls for a “million-man march” against Sisi.

Egyptian security forces also completely sealed off Tahrir Square, the epicenter of the so-called Arab Spring uprising in 2011.

It is a crackdown harsh even by the standards of the al-Sisi era, when Egyptian jails have swollen with his political opponents, elections are predetermined and opposition has been all but silenced, making shows of dissent extremely rare.

Al-Sisi warned Friday against “deceitful” attempts to discredit his rule. “It is all based on lies, distortion and fabrication. You should be aware of that,” he said upon his arrival at Cairo airport.

Hundreds of his supporters rallied to greet him, raising his picture and waving Egyptian flags.

But no one knows if it will be enough to deter a second round of demonstrations that the protests’ original instigator, a self-proclaimed whistleblower living in exile, has called for Friday.

“I just couldn’t help myself. I had to protest, I had to let out my anger,” said Mostafa, 20, a student who attended the protest in Cairo last Friday and, like most of those interviewed, declined to give his full name. “I’m sick of living in a fascist state, of being repressed politically and economically. These were supposed to be the best years of my life.”

But he planned to stay away from any protests this Friday and was urging people he knew to do the same, afraid they might get arrested. “I see a black future,

LIKELY To Be World’s Newest Nation

ISLAND To HOLD INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

The war-ravaged Pacific island of Bougainville will hold a referendum on independence from Papua New Guinea later this year, authorities said Friday, a vote that caps a decades-long peace process. The ballot follows a spluttering 20-year peace process and a decade of war that ended in 1998 and devastated the island – killing 10,000-15,000 people

TRUMP-UKRAINE ISSUE

Pelosi accuses US attorney general of going rogue

A BRIEF TIMELINE OF THE UKRAINE ISSUE	
JANUARY President Trump’s personal lawyer, Rudolph W Giuliani, meets in New York for hours with a Ukrainian prosecutor. Mr Giuliani pushes for information about — and investigations into — Trump’s rivals, including Biden	White House chief of staff, to hold back almost \$400 million in aid to Ukraine
MAY 23 After a US delegation returns from Ukraine President Zelensky’s inauguration, Trump is briefed on their favorable impressions of the new leader. Trump responds he thinks all Ukrainian politicians are corrupt	JULY 25 Trump speaks to Zelensky by phone and asks for a “favor”: Ukraine’s help in looking into an unfounded conspiracy theory that Ukrainians were involved in hacking the Democratic National Committee. Trump also cites his desire to look at Biden and his son
MID-JULY Trump instructs Mick Mulvaney, the acting	SEPTEMBER 9 The intelligence community inspector general sends a letter to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees informing them of the existence of a whistleblower complaint

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 27

HOUSE OF Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday accused U.S. Attorney General William Barr of going “rogue” in the Justice Department’s handling of a whistleblower report that President Donald Trump solicited a political favor from Ukraine’s president that could help him get re-elected.

The Democratic House leader, who launched an impeachment inquiry on Tuesday against the Republican Trump, has accused the administration of trying to cover up the whistleblower complaint. On Friday, she lambasted the Justice Department and the country’s top intelligence official for their roles.

Democrats say Barr should recuse himself from matters related to the whistleblower complaint prompted by a July 25 call between Trump and Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. “He’s gone rogue,” Pelosi said of Barr in an interview with MSNBC.

Meanwhile, Democrats are urging people who might have more information about President Donald Trump’s effort to persuade Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden to come forward as Trump struggles to contain the fallout from the scandal.

Democrat Adam Schiff, who chairs the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee and is one of Trump’s biggest opponents, called for more people to come forward who have knowledge of the Ukraine case.

“I’m hoping that these witnesses will choose to cooperate, will volunteer. But I have to say I am deeply worried now that the president, on the eve of our hearing or during our hearing, was threatening these witnesses,” Schiff told CNN on Thursday.

All deals off if Israel annexes key territory: Abbas at UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 27

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Mahmud Abbas told the United Nations he would terminate all signed agreements with Israel if it moved forward with plans announced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to annex a key part of the West Bank.

Netanyahu, who is trying to form a new government following a deadlocked election, pledged before the vote to impose Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea which account for one-third of the West Bank.

The promise was widely condemned, including by UN chief Antonio Guterres who warned it would violate international law.

“Our response, if any Israeli government is to proceed with this plan, is that all signed agreements with the government of the occupation and any obligations therein will be terminated,” Abbas said Thursday.

“And it is our right to defend our rights by all possible means, regardless of consequences, while remaining committed to international law and combating terrorism,” he warned.

Abbas made a similar vow in July, but did not follow through.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas made a similar vow in July, but did not follow through. *Reuters file*

FIRES UNABATED IN AMAZON RAINFOREST

An aerial view of a fire in a tract of the Amazon jungle, as farmers try to clear it, in Itaituba, Brazil. *Reuters*

British-flagged vessel sets sail after Iran release

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TEHRAN, SEPTEMBER 27

THE BRITISH-FLAGGED oil tanker Stena Impero, which had been held off the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas for more than two months, set sail Friday, the provincial maritime organisation said.

The ship’s seizure was widely seen as a tit-for-tat move after authorities in Gibraltar detained an Iranian tanker on suspicion it was shipping oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions.

“The Stena Impero started sailing from the mooring towards the Persian Gulf’s international waters as of 9:00 am (local time) today,” Hormozgan’s maritime organisation said on its website. “Despite the vessel’s clearance, its legal case is still open in Iran’s courts,” it added.

US offered to remove sanctions in exchange for talks: Rouhani

BABAK DEHGHANPISHEH

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 27

THE UNITED States offered to remove all sanctions on Iran in exchange for talks but Tehran has not yet accepted the offer due to the current “toxic atmosphere”, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Friday.

Rouhani, speaking on his return from the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said he met there with US officials at the insistence of Germany, Britain and France.

“It was up for debate what sanctions will be lifted and they (the United States) had said clearly that we will lift all sanctions,” Rouhani said, according to his official website.

Iran was ready for negotiations but not in an atmosphere

WILL CONTINUE OIL TRADE WITH IRAN: ERDOGAN

TURKISH PRESIDENT Tayyip Erdogan said Friday it was impossible for Turkey to stop buying oil and natural gas from Iran, despite the threat of US sanctions.

Speaking to reporters

on his return flight from New York, Erdogan said Turkey was not afraid of possible US sanctions over its trade with Iran, adding Ankara did not want to sever its cooperation with Tehran. **REUTERS**

of sanctions and pressure, the Iranian president said.

“This action wasn’t in a manner that was acceptable, meaning that in the atmosphere of sanctions and the existence of sanctions and the toxic atmosphere of maximum pressure, even if we want to negotiate with the Americans in the 5+1 framework, no one can predict what the end and result

of this negotiation will be,” he said.

Crude slipped on the report, adding to earlier losses caused by a faster-than-expected recovery in Saudi output, slowing Chinese economic growth, a Wall Street Journal report saying that Saudi Arabia had agreed a partial ceasefire in Yemen. Brent crude was trading below \$62 a barrel.

‘IMPORTANT To MAKE A STAND AGAINST OTHER GENERATIONS THAT HAVE REALLY SCREWED OVER OUR PLANET’

Kiwi children rally behind Greta: We’re skipping school to teach you a lesson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WELLINGTON, SEPTEMBER 27

MORE THAN 40,000 people packed into the grounds of Wellington’s parliament buildings Friday, giving the latest global climate strike a flying start with the largest turnout yet seen in New Zealand.

Children in school uniform marched alongside teens with skateboards tucked under their arms and grey-haired protest veterans supporting the younger generation. Participants carried signs saying “We’re skipping school to teach YOU a lesson”,

“Denial = Death” and “What Greta said!”.

The latter referenced Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg’s powerful address to the Climate Action Summit in New York on Monday, when she thundered “how dare you” at world leaders over inaction on climate change. New Zealander James Capie shared a similar sense of outrage and the 13-year-old said his generation would continue to protest until their demands were acted upon.

“People do have every right to be angry. My generation shouldn’t be out here missing school,” he said at the



Protesters march in Wellington on Friday. *AP*

Wellington strike. “But it’s really important to me

that we’re out here making a stand against other generations

that have really screwed over our planet.” “If enough of us come out here and show enough mana (honour) and support for each other the message will get through.”

Young people had to act, 14-year-old Armand Headland said, arguing that inaction would see the planet transformed into an uninhabitable wasteland.

“It’ll be just like Venus because it’s so hot... there’s not going to be any humans left because of our activity if we keep burning stuff,” he said.

Michael Alspach, 37, braved the crowds with 17-month-old toddler Ella, saying he would not

be able to look his daughter in the eye unless he did everything in his power to secure her future.

“It’s probably not going to be too bad for me, to be honest, but she’s going to be 80 in 2100 and that’s when the projections are looking quite bad, so I’m doing it for her,” he said.

While dissatisfied at the climate commitments made in New York, Alspach was confident the push for meaningful action was gaining momentum.

“It’s great to see so many people out here. Changing perspectives is the first step, actions come after ideas — I’m hopeful,” he said.

Over half of Europe’s endemic tree species risk extinction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 27

MORE THAN half of Europe’s endemic tree species, including the horse-chestnut, risk extinction, conservationists warned Friday, blaming invasive species, unsustainable logging and urban development for their decline.

In an update to the tree section of its “Red List” of threatened species, International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said that out of the 454 tree species native to Europe, 42 per cent could disappear from the continent.

And a full 58 percent of the tree species endemic to Europe, meaning that they only exist on the continent, were now considered threatened with extinction. Even more worrying, the update found that as many as 66 species were “critically endangered”.

18 BODY & MIND



Gracia Lam/NYT

The temporary memory lapse of Transient Global Amnesia

Those with the condition do not experience any alteration in consciousness or abnormal movements. Only the ability to lay down memories is affected.

JANE E BRODY

LATE ONE morning in June, L.J.'s husband got a distressed call from one of his wife's colleagues.

"You'd better come here right away. Your wife is acting weird," the colleague said. J., who had just returned from a doctor visit during which she underwent a minor painful procedure, kept asking her colleague for a password despite being told each time that there was none.

J., a 61-year-old arts administrator in New York who did not want her full name used, seemed physically OK, her colleague recalled. She knew who she was, she walked and talked properly, but what she said made no sense. Plus, J. could remember nothing that happened after she left the doctor's office and made her way to work.

When J. continued to behave oddly, the alarmed colleague called 911 and paramedics took her to Mount Sinai St Luke's Hospital.

The next thing J. remembers is waking up hours later in a hospital bed and asking, "Where am I? Why am I here?" In the interim, Dr Carolyn Brockington, a vascular neurologist and director of the hospital's stroke unit, had examined her and ordered a CT scan and MRI of her brain. All the results were normal. There was no physical weakness, no structural abnormality, no evidence of a stroke, seizure or transient ischemic attack. So, what had happened?

A diagnosis of exclusion: Transient global amnesia, often called TGA. It is a temporary lapse in memory that can never be retrieved. "It's as if the brain is on overload and takes a break to recharge," Brockington said in an interview. She likened it to rebooting a com-

puter to eradicate an unexplainable glitch. Those with TGA do not experience any alteration in consciousness or abnormal movements. Only the ability to lay down memories is affected. All other parts of the brain appear to be working normally.

Though TGA is relatively rare — it affects about five people in 1,00,000 in the general population — given her specialty Brockington said she sees one or two patients a week with TGA. Nearly all are over 50, and among older adults, the incidence is more like 23 cases per 1,00,000 persons per year, with men and women affected equally.

As one patient, Frank McAndrew, a professor of psychology at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, reported in Environmental Psychology, his wife became alarmed when he appeared disoriented and confused, and kept asking the same questions over and over again.

McAndrew wrote, based on his wife's recall, "Each time I asked a question, I used exactly the same words, voice inflection, and hand gestures. I knew who I was, I knew who my wife was, and I knew who my dog was. The problem was that I could not put anything new into my memory or keep track of anything that had transpired more than a minute or two ago. It was as if my memory erased everything and reset every 90 seconds." At the emergency room, all tests came back negative, and 24 hours later, he was back to normal.

"When TGA happens to people, it's more terrifying to the people around them,"

Brockington said. "Later, after the event is over and they can't retrieve the lost memories, it's more terrifying to the patients. They need to know they have to let it go — their brain wasn't recording at the time." No matter how hard they may try, there's nothing in their memory bank to be recalled.

TGA is a benign condition that leaves no lasting effects except perhaps frustration over the missing memories. An episode typically lasts for one to eight hours, most often resolves within a day, and happens again in only 4 per cent or 5 per cent of patients.

Although TGA was well-described medically more than 40 years ago, its cause or causes have yet to be established. One leading suspect is venous congestion, a slowdown of blood flow leaving the brain. There is also some evidence for a loss of neurons or a disruption in blood flow in a region of the brain's hippocampus.

TGA sometimes occurs following excessive alcohol consumption, large doses of barbiturates or use of illegal drugs. Neurologists have also identified a number of precipitating non-drug events: sudden immersion in cold or hot water; physical exertion; acute emotional or psychological stress; pain; medical procedures; sexual intercourse; and the Valsalva manoeuvre (a forceful attempt to exhale against a closed airway).

For men, TGA is more likely to occur following a physical trigger; for women, it is more often associated with an emotional precipitant or a history of anxiety. Both men and women with a history of migraine are

TGA's cause or causes have yet to be established. One leading suspect is venous congestion, a slowdown of blood flow leaving the brain

believed to be more susceptible than others to a TGA episode. Those who experience TGA are no more likely to suffer a stroke or heart attack than people who have never had the condition.

There is also no treatment. People simply have to wait out the episode and give any residual foggy time to clear before returning to their usual activities.

I now wonder if what I thought was a mild concussion was really TGA when on a beautiful September morning in 2017 I seem to have fallen off my bike for no apparent reason after swimming laps at the Y. I was not dizzy, there was no obstacle I might have hit, and I have no memory of almost falling.

I do recall feeling great as I started a slow uphill ride on my block, something I do daily, and then remember nothing else until about 30 minutes later, when I left my house to retrieve my bicycle while holding a wet paper towel under my bleeding chin. I had not hit my head and had no headache or bruises, but probably cut my chin on the bike basket.

During the intervening minutes, although I remember none of this, I had apparently walked the bike to my house, brought in my backpack and helmet and put a package of spinach into the refrigerator. Afterward, my son insisted that I get the cut stitched and walked me to the emergency room, where the intake doctor ruled out any medical explanation for my fall and told me to take it easy for the rest of the day.

Lacking any residual symptoms, I was — and still am — most disturbed by the fact that I have no idea why or how I fell and thus no way to avoid it in the future. But if TGA was the cause, it most likely will never happen again.

NYT

SHORT COURSE

[0-30 YEARS]

Gum disease may up risk for high BP



FOR A study in Cardiovascular Research, researchers combined results of 81 studies including more than 2,00,000 people. Using a blood pressure reading of 140/90 or higher as definition of hypertension, they found people with a diagnosis of gum disease were 20 per cent more likely to have high blood pressure than those with healthy gums.

The more severe the gum disease, the higher the risk. A diagnosis of moderate periodontal disease was associated with a 22 per cent increased risk of hypertension, and severe gum disease with a 49 per cent increased risk. On average, people with gum disease had a 4.5-point higher systolic blood pressure reading (top number). A 5-point increase in systolic pressure has been linked to a 25 per cent increased risk of death from heart disease. Twelve of the studies examined effect of periodontal treatment, but only five found evidence that treating gum disease would lower blood pressure. **NYT**

[30-50 YEARS]

Coffee may lower risk of gallstones



DRINKING COFFEE has been tied to a range of health benefits. Here's another: It may reduce the risk for gallstones. Danish researchers did a two-part study. In the first, they followed 1,04,49 men and women for eight years. They had data on their coffee consumption, and during that time, there were 2,233 cases of gallstones. The researchers found that every additional cup a day of coffee, up to six cups, resulted in a 3 per cent lower risk for gallstones. Compared with people who drank none, those who drank coffee had a 7 to 23 per cent reduced risk for gallstones, depending on how much they drank. Then they used a genetic technique called Mendelian randomisation that takes advantage of randomised distribution of genetic variants in the population. They found that people with two genetic variants known to be associated with caffeine intake had an 11 per cent reduced risk of gallstones for each additional daily cup of coffee. **NYT**

[50+ YEARS]

People don't recognise heart attacks when symptoms come on slowly: Researchers

WHEN HEART attack symptoms start gradually and don't follow exertion, patients are much slower to get to an emergency room and risk missing a critical window for preserving heart function, researchers say. Among 474 US patients who arrived in emergency departments with dangerous reductions in blood flow to the heart, those whose symptoms had come on gradually took up to six

hours longer than recommended to call for help and get to the hospital, researchers found.

In a sudden attack, patients have severe pain from the start. But symptoms of a gradual attack — breathing trouble and tightness of chest — are not so obvious, the authors note. "Victims must not worry their symptoms might be a false alarm," said Dr Sahereh Mirzaei of University of Illinois, who led the study. **REUTERS**



DIET DIARY

Tips on nutrition, from Mahatma Gandhi



BY ISHI KHOSLA

FROM A very young age, Mahatma Gandhi was particular about his diet. He was a believer in the power of food and its impact on an individual's mind and body. His several experiments with diet on his own body continued through his lifetime till he arrived at his own philosophy on food-wisdom packaged in a book called *Key to Health*.

He believed in the importance of vegetarianism with milk, curd, butter and ghee. He was a lover of khichri, dalia, brown rice, daal, lauki, beetroot juice, honey with water, onion and garlic. He believed one must eat to live.

He believed in fasting and the fact that restraint in diet — both in quantity and quality — is as essential as restraint in thought and speech. Of all his experiments with diet, fasting was perhaps the most well-known and he observed a total of 17 fasts during India's freedom struggle, the longest lasting 21 days.

The wisdom of his dietary recommendations is consistent with those expressed by modern evidence-based medicine. A balanced diet, rich in proteins, roughage, vitamins and minerals and with healthy fats, limited sugars and salt has always been a part of the dietary

recommendations for prevention of modern lifestyle-related diseases.

Gandhi, it appears, was ahead of his time and may be appropriately called modern India's first nutritionist.

The legacy of the Father of the Nation must continue through his simple earthy wisdom on diet and good health.

Some of the key tips from Gandhiji's nutrition philosophy are:

EAT TO LIVE: He believed that food should be taken as a matter of duty to sustain the body and not for satisfaction of the palate. He advocated portion control and abstinence from indulgent foods.

RAW IS GOOD: He believed that all foods are richer if taken close to their natural state. He often said excessive cooking on fire leads to nutritional losses and recommended eating unfired foods.

EAT MORE GREENS: Gandhi ji believed in a vegetarian, whole plant-based diet. He recommended everyday consumption of seasonal fruits and green vegetables.

WHOLE GRAIN GOODNESS: He was a strong believer in the nutritional power of whole grain and said "the richest part of wheat is contained in its bran".

CHEWING IS ESSENTIAL: He strongly recommended chewing food till it is finely pulverized and dissolves in the mouth. According to him, well-masticated food moistened by saliva results in better digestion and, therefore, less food can provide the energy needed by the body.

Author is a clinical nutritionist and founder of www.theweightmonitor.com and Whole Foods India

How an ice bath may undermine your weight workout

Cold water immersion is popular with some athletes, but it may slow the growth of new muscle

GRETCHEN REYNOLDS

BATHTUBS FILLED with frigid water and occasionally dotted with ice cubes are a common sight in professional athletes' training rooms and at some gyms. Many recreational athletes also slip into cold baths at home after intense workouts. But soaking in icy water after lifting weights can change how muscles respond to the workout and result in less muscle growth than doing nothing to recover, according to a cautionary new study of young men and their muscles. The study underscores that how we opt to recover from exercise may influence what we gain from the exercise and in some times unintended ways.

Almost no one claims that nippy baths are pleasant; the iciness tends to be pin-prickingly uncomfortable. But adherents believe the frigid waters reduce soreness and inflammation in muscles after draining exercise, lessen muscle damage, allow people to return to full training sooner, and encourage changes within the tis-

sue that contribute to hypertrophy, which is the formal name for muscle growth.

There have been scientific hints in recent years, however, that icy baths after exercise might not be working in ways that most icy bathers anticipate. Some studies found no differences in muscle and performance gains between athletes who soak after exertions and those who do not. And at least one experiment suggested that any positive physical impacts from cold soaks resulted from the placebo effect.

But many questions remain unanswered about the effects of the baths, including what happens at a molecular level inside exercisers' muscles when they soak in frigid water, and what those molecular effects might mean for the effectiveness of subsequent workouts.

So, for the new study, published this month in the *Journal of Applied Physiology*, scientists from Deakin University in Melbourne, Victoria University, also in Melbourne, and other institutions, decided to ask a group of volunteers to brave the discomforts of frigid water in inflatable bathtubs while the scientists tracked



Getty images

the state of their muscles.

The researchers began by recruiting 16 healthy young men who were not currently lifting weights. They tested the men's current muscular strength and their body composition and then divided them into two groups.

Both groups started a full-body, progressive, resistance-training routine, with stan-

dard bench presses, curls, pull-downs and so on, the weights increasing over time for each lifter as the workouts became easier.

Before and after the first session at the gym, the scientists biopsied a muscle in the men's legs. The volunteers then worked out three times a week for seven weeks.

At the conclusion of each session, half of

the men recovered by sitting quietly in a room at the gym for 15 minutes. The others eased themselves into cold baths after every workout, the waters cooled to a constant temperature of about 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius). The men gamely remained in the tubs for 15 minutes.

They continued these workouts three times a week for seven weeks. After the final workout, the scientists again biopsied the volunteers' muscles and rechecked the men's leg strength and body compositions. Then they examined the muscle tissues microscopically and began comparing the groups.

On the whole, they found, the members of both groups were stronger now. But, underneath, their tissues appeared quite unlike.

Muscles are composed of long fibres that plump and grow in response to training, and, as would be expected, all of the men had developed larger muscle fibres with seven weeks of lifting. But the increase in fibre size was much greater among those who sat after every workout than those who had soaked to recover.

More surprising, the cold soakers showed a different balance of certain biochemicals inside their muscles than among the men who had sat. In particular, their muscles contained

lower levels of a protein known to spark tissue growth and higher amounts of a different protein involved in tissue breakdown.

In effect, the soakers' muscles seemed to have become biochemically primed for slower recovery and less growth than the tissues of the other men, says Aaron Petersen, a senior lecturer in exercise physiology at Victoria University, who led the new study. Petersen and his colleagues suspect that the repeated cold-water immersions may have triggered complex metabolic reactions inside the body that prioritise keeping tissues warm over helping them to grow. But that theory needs to be studied in future experiments.

This study also was small and involved only young men and weight training, so its findings might not apply to women, older people or athletes in other sports. The results could even have different implications for some exercisers. "If a person doesn't want to build muscle," Petersen says, icy baths after lifting might be worthwhile.

But for anyone hoping to grow both stronger and more muscular with gym workouts, he says, "based on our study and previous research, using cold-water immersion following weight training is not recommended". **NYT**

SECTOR WATCH
PHARMACEUTICALS

Ranitidine fallout:
Firms choose to
wait and watch;
Torrent halts sale

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

WHILE REGULATORS around the world continue to look into concerns over potential cancer-causing substances contaminating popular acid-ity medicine ranitidine, more companies selling the drug in India have decided to tread with caution. JB Chemicals — which is testing its ‘Rantac’ and ‘Rantac-OD’ — plans to take a final call on sales of its products “once the results are out”, said the company’s president, Pranabh Mody. The results are expected next week, he said.

Torrent Pharmaceuticals, on the other hand, has decided to halt sales of its ‘Ranit’ in the country while it looks into the safety issues raised. “We have initiated a detailed assessment of the product and till such time we have stopped the sales of this product,” a spokesperson for Torrent told *The Indian Express*.

Rantac is the third largest ranitidine brand in India by sales, while Ranitin is the fifth largest. Ranitidine is a nearly Rs 690 crore market in the country, as per pharmaceutical market research firm AIOCD Awacs PharmaTrac. The latest developments come after announcements that Dr Reddy’s and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) were globally suspending the distribution and sales of their ranitidine products.

GSK’s ranitidine was one of eight brands flagged by Singapore’s Health Sciences Authority on September 16 for containing trace amounts of a nitrosamine impurity, N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) “above the internationally acceptable level.” GSK sells its ranitidine under the brand name Zinetac in India.

NDMA, an environmental contaminant found in water and foods, has been classified by the International Agency for Research on

Cancer as ‘probably carcinogenic to humans’, meaning it has the potential to cause cancer.

The issue with the contamination was first raised by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA). On September 13, the US regulator stated in a release that it had learned that some ranitidine medicines contained “low levels” of NDMA and it was evaluating whether the substance was present in the drugs at levels that posed a risk to patients.

The US FDA has also not called for individuals to stop taking ranitidine at this time. “Although NDMA may cause harm in large amounts, the levels the FDA is finding in ranitidine from preliminary tests barely exceed amounts you might expect to find in common foods,” the watchdog said.

On Monday, India’s drug regulatory body the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) wrote to state regulators asking them to direct ranitidine active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufacturers to “verify their products and take appropriate measures to ensure patient safety.”

Like the US FDA, CDSCO has so far not called for any halting of supplies or recalls, which means the products can continue to be marketed in the country. APIs are the ingredients that give a medicine its therapeutic effect. As per industry sources, most of the world’s supply of the ranitidine API comes from two Indian firms: Saraca Laboratories and SMS Lifesciences.

SMS is evaluating its ranitidine to ensure it is “void” of this impurity or that the NDMA is “within permissible limits.” According to GSK, the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) has suspended Saraca’s certificate of suitability for its ranitidine API “with immediate effect”.

FINANCE MINISTER MEETS 21 MINISTRIES

Centre asks ministries, depts to
push capital expenditure on time

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday held a meeting with 21 ministries to push the planned capital expenditure, or capex, on time and to ensure that government departments clear their outstanding dues to suppliers as well as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The Centre also asked the ministries and departments to provide detailed capex plans for the next four quarters. Furthermore, the government expects the entire capex programme to be spent as outlined in the Budget 2019-20.

Briefing reporters after Friday’s meeting, Sitharaman said she is “gearing the government machinery” to meet payments on time and to push spending on asset creation. The government is also making tax refunds for Goods and Services Tax (GST) to clear all dues and nearly 90 per cent of the refunds have been credited to the taxpayers, she added.

To another query, Sitharaman said she has not written to the Finance

EXPLAINED
Clearance of dues
aimed at injecting
liquidity into system

TO ADDRESS the slowdown in economy growth, the Finance Ministry has taken a series of measures including sharp reduction in corporate tax rates, upfront capital infusion into public sector banks and push to the ministries to meet planned capital expenditure on time.

The government’s move to nudge ministries and departments to clear outstanding dues of vendors and MSMEs will inject liquidity in the system.

Commission to reduce devolution of federal taxes to states

Expenditure Secretary GC Murrmu said the government has cleared almost Rs 40,000 crore out of total dues of Rs 60,000 crore in recent weeks. And the remaining amount, which is not involved in litigation, will be cleared by the first week of October, he said. “The idea (of the meeting) is to ensure that the entire capital expenditure is met on time. This will pump liquidity into the system,” he said, adding that the government will be spending nearly Rs 3.38 lakh crore from gross budgetary support (GBS).

The total capital expenditure from all sources, including GBS, extra budgetary resources and other heads will be around Rs 10.82 lakh crore.

Murrmu said that in the next two quarters, almost all capital expenditure will be made as per the timeline. He also said that most infrastructure ministries have reached 50 per cent of their capex target for the current fiscal.

The Finance Minister will hold a meeting with heads of central public sector enterprises on Friday to review their capex plans. To a query on how the Centre will meet its fiscal deficit target of 3.3

per cent of the GDP by March 2020, Sitharaman said the government’s focus right now is to ensure that capital expenditure goes on as planned and she will at a later stage reconcile the position with respect to fiscal deficit.

Analysts noted that the Rs 1.45 lakh crore-worth of yearly stimulus in the form of tax cuts could make the government’s task of managing fiscal deficit reduction target more challenging.

One way the government could manage to keep fiscal deficit at target level of 3.3 per cent of the GDP by March 2020 is through aggressive asset sales.

The government is already planning to sell stakes in some companies to below 51 per cent. Sale of significant stake in companies in energy sector — such as BPCL, Container Corporation of India Ltd and Coal India — could generate resources enough to cover this year’s shortfall on tax revenues

To ensure that payments are made on time, the Expenditure Secretary said that the Finance Ministry is preparing a mechanism by which payments will happen automatically without push from the officers and this will become fully operational in few months.

‘PE investment in India
rises 59% in August’

Private equity (PE) investments in India stood at \$2.11 billion in August, a sharp increase of 59% from the year-ago month, according to Grant Thornton’s monthly PE Dealtracker for August 2019

08 Number of high-value investment of and above \$100 million each recorded in August

3% Rise in PE deals in terms of volume, i.e. from 67 in August 2018 to 69 this August

2.6X Fall in investment values in August compared to July 2019, with a marginal 3 per cent fall in volumes

68% Share of startup sector in terms

of volume of PE deals
Major areas of investment in startup sector:
■ Fintech
■ Data analytics and artificial intelligence
■ Retail and discovery platforms

Biggest PE investment deal in August:
GIC’s investment of \$622 million in IRB Infrastructure’s BOT assets

Major sectors with investments of over \$100



CBDT compulsorily retires 15 officials over graft charges

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE GOVERNMENT has compulsorily retired 15 income tax officers on charges of corruption and bribery under Fundamental Rule 56(j), taking the total number of tax officers compulsorily retired to 64 this year.

This is the fourth round of compulsory retirement of tax officials. In the previous three rounds, 49 high ranking tax officers, including 12 from the CBDT, were compulsorily retired.

Officers of the rank of

Principal Commissioner — Income Tax, Commissioner—Income Tax, Joint Commissioner and Additional Commissioner were among the 15 officials compulsorily retired by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Nearly half of the officials retired were those who were arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation for allegedly receiving illegal gratification. One of them was caught accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000, while another official is accused of having assets disproportionate to his known source of income.

Earlier in June, the government had compulsorily retired

E-assessment not mandatory
for users without e-a/c, PAN

New Delhi: The Income-Tax department will start faceless assessment from October 8, 2019 but it won’t be mandatory for taxpayers who don’t have an e-filing account or a PAN, a directive from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued Thursday said.

Further, in cases where the department has conducted raids and instances categorised under ‘extraordinary circumstances’ will also not be covered under the e-assessment system.

Additionally, e-assessment will also not be necessary in cases which involve administrative difficulties, or have certain extraordinary circumstances and these will be exceptions for the new system, the circular said. **FE**

15 senior customs and central excise officials, including one of

the rank of Principal Additional Director General (ADG), and in

another round had sacked 12 income tax officers, including one of the rank of the joint commissioner on the charges of graft. In August, the government compulsorily retired 22 Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) officers.

A similar action under Rule 56 (j) was taken by the government in May 2016 when 33 officials of the Revenue Services, including seven Group ‘A’ officers, were prematurely retired for non-performance under Rule 56 (j) of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules.

Rule 56(j) of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 provides for periodical review

of the performance of government servants with a view to ascertain whether they should be retained in service or retired from service in public interest.

As per these instructions, the cases of government servants covered by Fundamental Rule 56(j), 56(1) or Rule 48(1) (b) of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 should be reviewed six months before they attain the age of 50-55 years, in cases covered by Fundamental Rule 56(j) and on completion of 30 years of qualifying service under Fundamental Rule 56(1) or Rule 48 of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972.

Oil shipping rates up 28% amid US supertanker sanctions

FLORENCE TAN, CHEN AIZHU & JONATHAN SAUL
SINGAPORE/LONDON, SEPTEMBER 27

KEY OIL freight rates from the Middle East to Asia rocketed as much as 28 per cent on Friday in a global oil shipping market spooked by the United States sanctions on units of Chinese giant COSCO for alleged involvement in ferrying crude out of Iran.

In what the State Department called “one of the largest sanctions actions the US has taken” since curbs were re-imposed on Iran in November last year, two units of COSCO were named alongside other companies in claims of involvement in sanctions-busting shipments of Iranian oil.

The surprise move, affecting one of the world’s largest energy shippers operating more than 50

‘ONE OF THE LARGEST SANCTIONS ACTIONS’
■ In “one of the largest sanctions actions the US has taken”, two units of COSCO were named alongside other companies in claims of involvement in sanctions-busting shipments of Iranian oil

supertankers, comes as US President Donald Trump seeks to exert maximum pressure on Iran to drop nuclear programmes.

As some Asian oil buyers rushed to secure vessels, rates for chartering supertankers, or very large crude carriers (VLCCs), to load crude oil from the Middle East to North Asia in October surged nearly 19 per cent overnight to about 75-76 points on Worldscale, an industry tool used to calculate freight charges, shipping and industry sources

said. That means an increase of about \$600,000 per ship, a Singapore-based oil trader said.

“The current strength in rates has been triggered by geopolitics,” shipbroker E.A. Gibson said on Friday. “This week’s US sanctions on two COSCO subsidiaries added more fuel to the fire.”

Supertanker rates on the benchmark Middle East Gulf to China route soared to \$51,480 a day and were at their highest in nearly 11 months, Baltic Exchange data

showed later on Friday.

Shipping sources said tanker derivatives rates for fourth quarter of 2019, which give an indication of forward rate expectations, also rose Friday to 88 Worldscale points, from 85 on Thursday.

The rates for loading Middle East crude to west coast India in the second week of October jumped 28 per cent to 80-92.5 points after Reliance Industries Ltd booked two supertankers overnight, industry sources said.

But there was also uncertainty over how widely the sanctions on the COSCO units — COSCO Shipping Tanker (Dalian) Co, Ltd and its subsidiary COSCO Shipping Tanker (Dalian) Seaman & Ship Management Co, Ltd — would be implemented.

COSCO Shipping Tanker (Dalian) owns and manages at least 36 tankers for crude and refined products, including 18 VLCCs, as per shipping sources and *Refinitiv* data. **REUTERS**

Oil heads for
3% weekly loss

New York: Oil prices steadied Friday, but were heading for a weekly loss on a faster-than-expected recovery in Saudi output, while investors also worried about global crude demand amid slowing Chinese growth.

Brent crude futures lost 32 cents to \$62.42 a barrel by 1521 GMT, after dropping to a session low of \$60.76 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose 3 cents to \$56.44 a barrel. Brent was on track to fall nearly 3 per cent for the week, its biggest weekly loss since early August, while WTI was set to fall 2.8 per cent.

Earlier in the session, crude futures fell after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the United States offered to remove all sanctions on Iran in exchange for talks. **REUTERS**

‘Trump considers delisting Chinese companies from US stock markets’

ALEXANDRA ALPER
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 27

THE US government is considering the possibility of delisting Chinese companies from US exchanges, a source briefed on the matter said on Friday, in what would be a radical escalation of trade tensions between the United States and China.

The move would be part of a broader effort to limit US investments into China, the source said, confirming an earlier report by *Bloomberg* that sent shockwaves through financial markets.

Shares of Alibaba Group Holding, JD.com, Pinduoduo, Baidu, Vipshop Holdings, Baozun and IQIYI fell between 2 per cent to 4 per cent in afternoon trading.

China’s yuan currency,

Sources said the move would be part of a broader effort to limit US investments into China, confirming an earlier report by Bloomberg; shares of Alibaba Group Holding, JD.com, among others fell between 2% to 4% in afternoon trading

traded in off shore markets, fell by 0.4 per cent against the dollar after the news to trade near its weakest against the greenback in about three weeks.

Exact mechanisms for how to delist the companies were yet to be worked out and any plan is subject to approval by US President Donald Trump, who has given the green light to the discussion, *Bloomberg* reported, citing a person close to the deliberations.

Trade talks between the United States and China are set

to resume on October 10 in Washington, *CNBC* reported on Thursday, citing three people close to the talks.

The report also rocked New York’s broader stock indexes, knocking around half a per cent off the value of the S&P 500 in midday trading.

The largest US exchange-traded fund tracking Chinese stocks, the iShares China Large-Cap ETF, slid by more than 1.4 per cent from its level before the report to hit its lowest since early September. **REUTERS**

MEETING CHAIRED BY RBI GOVERNOR

FSDC panel deliberates on frauds, early warning signals

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE SUB-COMMITTEE of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), which met here on Friday, discussed measures to strengthen the systems against frauds and revisit the framework for early warning signals.

The meeting, chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, also discussed measures to promote interest and competition in the stressed asset markets, enhancing the scope of Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) to more effectively monitor group exposures, issues relating to credit rating agencies and audit quality.

The chiefs of regulatory agen-

The Sub-Committee reviewed major developments in the global and domestic economy as well as financial markets that impinge on financial stability

cies including Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi, IRDAI Chairman SC Khuntia, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson MS Sahoo, Injeti Srinivas, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser attended the meeting.

The Sub-Committee reviewed the major developments in the global and the domestic economy as well as financial markets that impinge on the financial stability.

In its Annual Report released last month, the RBI said the banking sector reported 6,801 frauds involving Rs 71,542.93 crore till 2018-19, as against 5,916 cases involving Rs 41,167.04 crore reported till 2017-18.

Among bank groups, public sector banks reported 3,766 cases of frauds worth Rs 64,509.43 crore, as against 2,885 cases involving Rs 38,260.8 crore. The number of cases of frauds reported by banks increased by 15 per cent in 2018-19 on a year-on-year basis, with the amount in-

volved rising by 73.8 per cent, though mostly related to occurrences in earlier years.

The average lag between the date of occurrence and its detection by banks was 22 months. The average lag for large frauds — Rs 100 crore and above — amounting to Rs 52,200 crore reported during 2018-19 was 55 months. Among bank groups, PSU banks, which constitute the largest market share in bank lending, have accounted for the bulk of frauds reported in 2018-19. It was followed by private sector banks and foreign banks, the RBI said in its Annual Report for 2018-19. Sebi had expanded its probe into the role of credit rating agencies after a forensic audit flagged cases of misconduct by them in rating IL&FS group firms.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS BY INDIABULLS HOUSING

Delhi HC seeks response of govt, RBI and company

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE DELHI High Court Friday sought response of the central government, the RBI and Indiabulls on a PIL by an NGO for a thorough and time-bound SIT investigation into alleged illegalities, violations and siphoning by Indiabulls Housing Finance's promoters.

A Bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Chhan Shankar issued a notice to Sebi, the National Housing Bank, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office, the Registrar

of Companies and the founder-chairman of Indiabulls and sought their replies by the next date of hearing, December 13.

The NGO, Citizens Whistle Blower Forum, claimed that IBHFL promoters and their various group firms and arms had been advancing dubious loans to companies owned by large corporates.

The contention was opposed by IBHFL's counsel, who said, "Which fool will give an unsecured loan of Rs 4,600 crore?"

He said that all money given on loan was properly secured and more than Rs 3,000 crore has been paid back to it.

AVIATION CASE

ED can now legally take possession of Holiday Inn Hotel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) can now legally take possession of Holiday Inn Hotel located at Aerocity in New Delhi, following confirmation of its attachment orders for the hotel.

The Adjudicating Authority under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act has confirmed the provisional attachment of the hotel carried out by ED in March in connection with its probe against corporate lobbyist Deepak Talwar in the Air India case.

"The ED had provisionally attached property, Hotel Holiday Inn located in Aerocity, New Delhi on 28.03.2019 to the extent of Rs

127.69 crore being proceeds of

crime in a money-laundering case. The said Provisional Attachment Order has subsequently been confirmed by the Hon'ble PMLA Adjudicating Authority vide order dated 19.09.2019," the ED said on Friday in a statement.

The ED had attached the hotel saying it had been bought with money allegedly laundered by Talwar. This money was alleged to be kickbacks received in deals allegedly brokered by Talwar between Air India and foreign aircraft manufacturers.

The hotel would have the option of challenging the decision of the adjudicating authority in the high court to prevent ED from taking possession of the hotel.



iPhone 11 hits stores in India

People wait in front of an Apple Store at a shopping complex in Mumbai. Amit Chakravarty

■ The iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, iPhone 11 Pro Max and the Apple Watch Series 5 went on sale at 6 pm on Friday.

■ The iPhone 11's price is set at Rs 64,900 for the base 64GB storage variant, while the iPhone 11 Pro costs Rs 99,900.

■ The Series 5 Watch shares the same design as the Watch Series 4 but gets upgraded internals.

Maruti cuts Baleno RS price by ₹1L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE COUNTRY'S largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday said it has reduced the price of its performance hatchback Baleno RS by Rs 1 lakh.

Earlier this week, the company had reduced prices of select models by Rs 5,000 (on ex-showroom prices). These included all variants of Alto 800, Alto K10, Swift Diesel, Celerio, Baleno Diesel, Ignis, Dzire Diesel, Tour S Diesel, Vitara Brezza and S-Cross. MSI said in a statement. These models are priced in the range of Rs 2.93 lakh and Rs 11.49 lakh. The model now starts at a price of Rs 7.88,913 (ex-showroom Delhi).

FIR against Lakshmi Vilas Bank, directors for ₹794-cr deposit loan 'adjustment'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE ECONOMIC Offences Wing of Delhi Police has registered an FIR against Lakshmi Vilas Bank, its directors and other unknown persons, based on a complaint by Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL) regarding "adjustment" of Rs 794 crore deposit loan.

"During 2017-18, the bank had adjusted deposit loans aggregating to Rs 794 crore, extended to RHC Holding and Ranchem, group firms of Religare Finvest against RFL's deposits," the bank said.

"Mere registration of FIR against the bank does not mean anything at this stage. The bank is committed to cooperate with the

investigating agencies and authorities to bring out the malicious attempts of RFL to mislead the public to cover up fraud indulged by their own promoters, employees and group firms," the bank said. Disputing the said "adjustment", RFL has filed a suit against the bank in May 2018 before the Delhi High Court and the same is being defended by the bank.

"RFL had also filed an interim application in the suit claiming attachment of the assets of the bank, its employees, directors etc," the bank said. The said application was heard for over a year and when the same was reserved for orders, RFL made a submission to the court for withdrawing the said interim application for the reasons best known to them, it said.

Kerala CM lays out red carpet for tech giants

Thiruvananthapuram: Assuring total support to investors, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday said Kerala was the most ideal destination for startups and technology giants to choose as the hub of their India, Middle East and South Asia business operations.

Inaugurating the second edition of Huddle Kerala, Asia's largest startup convergence, at nearby Kovalam, he said Kerala provided vast opportunities for startups seeking to expand in India and other emerging markets.

He noted that the state had inherent strengths like high socioeconomic parameters and digitally aware and empowered population.

"I welcome startups from abroad and other parts of India to

consider making Kerala as a base for your India, Middle East and South East Asia business efforts," he said.

The two-day event, which brought together the best businesses and technological minds from across the globe, is being organised by the Kerala Startup Mission in association with Internet and Mobile Association of India. We have the talent, support system as well as the market potential to emerge as the innovation hub of India, the chief minister said, recalling that it is in this pristine state that Travis Kalanick found inspiration to code the initial version of Uber."

Referring to Kerala's famed global exposure since ancient times, Vijayan said it now boasts of a thriving startup and innovation ecosystem. PTI

'Facebook to invest in tech startups in India'

Thiruvananthapuram: In a move that would give a tremendous boost to the startup ecosystem in India, social media major Facebook is gearing up to make substantial investments in technology startups, Facebook India Vice-President and Managing Director Ajit Mohan said.

Co-founder of Twitter to invest in startup Sieve

Thiruvananthapuram: Twitters co-founder Biz Stone said on Friday that he would invest in Sieve, a startup mentored by Kerala Startup Mission. Sieve is a platform for freelancers and agencies that provide the infrastructure from websites to digital signatures.

'Mistrust between govt & biz growing'

Mumbai: PIRAMAL GROUP chairman Ajay Piramal on Friday spoke out against the frequent raids, searches and lookout notices by various government agencies on corporates, and blamed these actions for creating a "mistrust" among the business community.

The head of the diversified Piramal

Group refused to comment on the media reports of Japanese investor SoftBank backing out of a proposed deal with his NBFC arm. The comments on the business climate come at a time when many a too business leader, including I&T's AM Naik and others have been flagging these concerns. PTI

Boeing CEO to testify before Congress about grounded 737 MAX fleet

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 27

Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg has agreed to testify before Congress next month on the grounded 737 MAX that was involved in two fatal crashes that killed 346 people, a US House of Representatives committee and the company said on Friday.

John Hamilton, chief engineer of Boeing's Commercial Airplanes division and Jennifer Henderson, chief pilot for the 737, will join Muilenburg when he testifies on Oct. 30, the US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee said. The CEO has not testified before Congress since the fatal crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia. The plane was grounded and the FAA's certification of the new aircraft was questioned.

BRIEFLY

Rupee rallies to 2-mth high as crude stabilises

New Delhi: The rupee spurred by 32 paise to close at 70.56 — a nearly two-month high — against the US currency on Friday as crude oil prices receded. PTI

CCI approves Aramco's 70% buy in SABIC

New Delhi: CCI has given approval to the acquisition of a 70 per cent stake in Saudi Basic Industries Corporation by Saudi Aramco for \$69.1 billion. PTI

Revised MNP norms: Telcos get more time

New Delhi: Trai has extended to November 11 the deadline for implementation of new mobile number portability rules for consumers. PTI

DICV declares non-production days in Sep-Oct

Chennai: Daimler India Commercial Vehicle, the subsidiary of Stuttgart-based Daimler, on Friday announced that there would be non-production days at its Chennai plant in September and October. PTI

4th tranche of Bharat-22 ETF next Thursday

New Delhi: The Centre will launch the fourth tranche of Bharat-22 ETF on October 3, which will help garner Rs 8,000 crore from investors, sources said. PTI

Wells Fargo appoints Scharf CEO

New York: Wells Fargo & Co named banking veteran Charles Scharf CEO on Friday, the lender's third CEO since a sales scandal erupted three years ago. REUTERS

M&M puts out offers for AP, Telangana

Hyderabad: Mahindra & Mahindra has announced offers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana ahead of the festive season. PTI

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No: 11, 12/SE/PHCTSR/2019-20. KJIFB - Augmentation of CWSS to Nattika Finka Phase-I - Package 1 - Design, Construction and commissioning of 9m dia intake well cum pumphouse, 26MLD Water Treatment Plant, Renovation of existing WTP and existing intake well cum pump house, Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 2 nos RW and 2 nos CW Pumpsets, 500KVA Transformers (3 nos), Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning 700mm DI RW/PH - 2700m, restoration of roads/Package II - Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning 300mm DI K3 Clear Water Pumping Main & 300mm DI K3 CWPH, installation of fire hydrant, restoration of roads and allied works. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender : 04-11-2019 03:00pm. Phone : 04872423230. Superintending Engineer PH Circle Thiruvananthapuram
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-301-2019-20

HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of India Enterprise)
Plant Plaza Road, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 (Jharkhand)
Recruitment Notice
Applications are invited for the following Posts:

Advt. No.	Posts	Grade & Scale of Pay	No. of Posts
RT/17/2019 Dated 28/09/2019	Accountant (Trainee)	Suspend during Training - Rs.15000/- for 1 year and on confirmation, the selected candidate will be placed in Supervisory Scale of Pay: Rs.13,900 - 24,000/-	04 (Four)

Corrigendum
Corrigendum No. 1 dated 28.09.2019 against Advt No. RT/08/2019 dated 14/09/2019 for the post DGM (HMBP)
The number of vacancies is increased from 01 (one) to 02 (two) for the post of DGM (HMBP). Last date to receive the applications for this post is extended upto - 11.10.2019 (Friday)
Note: For details of the above and any further modification/date extension, please visit our website: <http://www.heciltcd.com>

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise) Office of The Executive Engineer, VJNL, Upper Bhadra Project Division No.9 Sira. Phone: 08135-276101
E-Mail: ubpee09@gmail.com
No.VJNLUBP/EE/D.9/Sira/TND-586/TBC/2019-20 DATE: 20.09.2019
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System) (Only Through E-Procurement System)
Percentage tender through e-portal for the Tumkur Branch Canal in Two cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 9 Sira on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, from the Registered KNNL/VJNL Category-I Contractors who fulfills the pre-qualification conditions for the works
(1) "Construction of Tumkur Branch Canal including earthwork, excavation, embankment, CC lining using mechanical paver, cross drainage works / road bridges/ cart track crossings from Ch.108.00 Km to ch. 135.00 Km (27 Km Length) including aqueduct from Ch.121.195 Km to Ch.122.744 Km - Under Upper Bhadra Project-Package No. VIII of TBC under UBP-**Rs.14626.47** Lakhs (Indent No.1322)" and **(2)** "Construction of Tumkur Branch Canal including earthwork, excavation, embankment, CC lining using mechanical paver, cross drainage works / road bridges/ cart track crossings from Ch.135.000 Km to ch.159.684 Km (24.684 Km Length) including aqueducts from Ch.138.150 Km to Ch.140.352 Km, Ch.143.650 Km to Ch.144.798 Km & from Ch.157.543 Km to Ch.158.123 Km and Tunnel from Ch.140.808 Km to Ch.141.522 Km Under Upper Bhadra Project -Package No. IX of TBC under UBP-**Rs.14197.02** Lakhs (Indent No. 132)".The Contractors can view, download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from **25.09.2019 to 25.10.2019** up to 16.00 hours. Last date & time for tender queries/clarifications if any, will be opened in e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in up to **25.10.2019**. Pre bid meeting will be held on **04.10.2019** at O/o Chief Engineer, VJNL, UBP Zone, Chitradurga at 11.00 AM. Details, such as amount put to tender/ EMD amount/ qualification of bidders/tender conditions/ tender processing fee etc can be obtained through e-procurement or from the office of the under signed during the office hours up to **24.10.2019** (17.00 hours). The tenders will be opened on **28.10.2019 @ 11.00 am** at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.09, Sira through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the qualified bidders only. The competent authority to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not bound to accept the lowest tender.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division no.9, Sira

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, R.W.S.&S, DIVISION, SUNDARGARH, NEAR WOMENS COLLEGE
Phone- 06622-272369, e-mail id-rwss.sng@gmail.com
1st CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

The following changes has been made in the Bid Identification No. EE, RWS&S, SNG 12/2019-2020 due to some technical problems. Availability of online bidding tender is modified from dt.09.10.2019 at 10.00 Hours to dt.23.10.2019 upto 17 hour instead of from dt. 19.09.2019 at 11.30 Hours To dt. 03.10.2019 up to 17 hour. Last Date & time of seeking tender clarification is extended to dt. 21.10.2019 upto 17 Hours instead of dt. 27.09.2019 upto 17 Hours. Date & time of opening of Technical bids extended to dt. 24.10.2019 at 11:30 Hours & Financial bid to be Intimated later on instead of dt. 04.10.2019 & Financial bid to be intimated later on. All other terms and conditions will remain unaltered.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS&S, Division, Sundargarh
25009/11/0002/1920

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) II
H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-110089
PH: 27851040 (E-MAIL eenw2.djb@gmail.com)
PRESS NIT No. 32 (2019-20) Press Notice Tender

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender	Earnest Money/ Tender Fee	Date of release of tender procurement solution/D.No.	Last date/ time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of old/damaged encroached water lines for removing deficiency of JRs pockets A-4, B-2, B-4, C-1, C-2, D-1, D-2, D-3 and D-4 of sector-20 Rohini under EE(NW)II	Rs.7,53,12,482/-	Rs.3,06,300/- Rs.1000/-	26.09.2019 2019_DJB_180999_1	15.10.2019 upto 3:00 pm

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY PRO (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 405/2019-20
Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) II

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Invitation For Bids (IFB) Dtd. 26.09.2019

S N	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding
					From To
1.	Supply, Installation & Testing of House Service Connection to the Consumers in Different Locations of Sambalpur Municipal Corporation	EICPH-03/ 2019-20	417.84	05 (Five) Months	11.00 Hrs. of 04.10.2019 17.00 Hrs. of 29.10.2019

❖Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid:
Engineer-in-Chief (PH),
Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar,
Bhubaneswar-751 007, Odisha.
Phone # 0674-2393909.
Email:eicphodisha@gmail.com
❖Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
❖All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
Sd/- ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, PH
13068/11/0003/1920

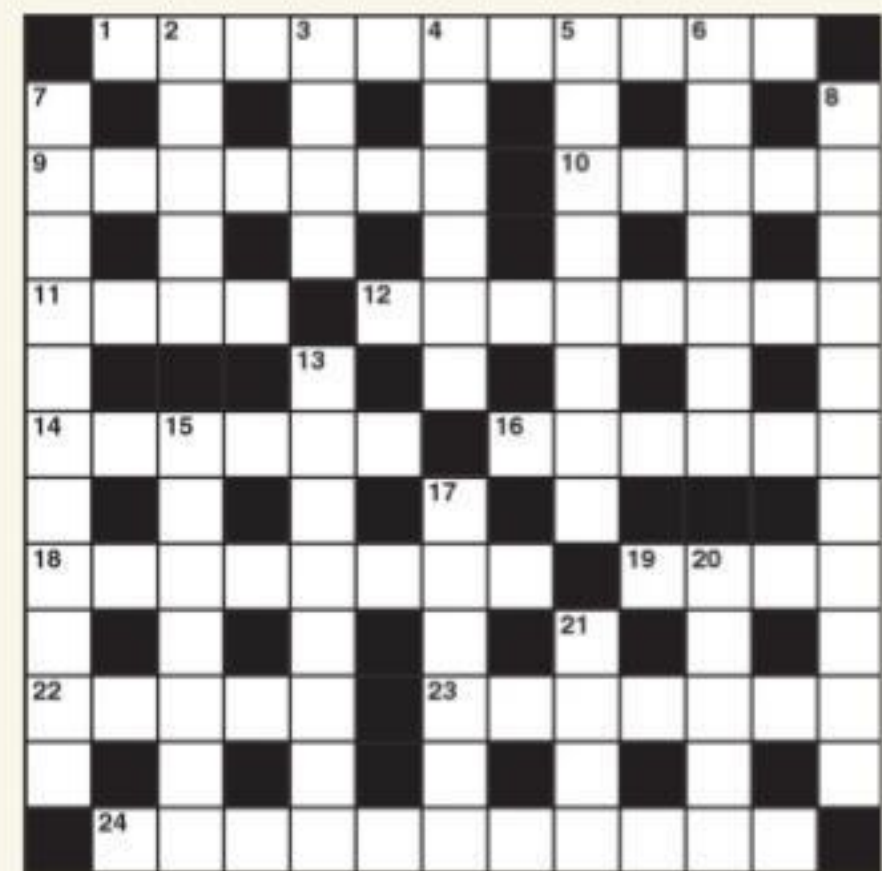
TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
V.N. Purus Marg, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088
(A Deemed University Under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
E-mail: ar-academic@tiss.edu Helpline: 022 25525211
Tender No. TISS/02/Acd./2020 September 28, 2019
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Service Providers engaged in providing End-to-End Services for conducting Computer-based (Online) TISS National Entrance Tests 2020. For further details and Tender Document please visit on TISS Website www.tiss.edu under Tenders. The last date for receiving bids is 5 p.m. on 11th October 2019.
Acting Registrar

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No.U27310WB1920G01003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 2/1, RUSSELL STREET, KOL-71
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (e-NIT) TENDER NO.: B&R / HO / NIT / FISH-MARKET / 51150 / ODISHA / CW / 01 (R-2)
Online Single Percentage Rate Bid(s) / Offer(s) in Two part bid system are invited from Reputed, Resourceful and Experienced Parties meeting prescribed QUALIFYING CRITERIA for the work of "CONSTRUCTION OF DRY FISH MARKET INCLUDING CIVIL, ROAD, PHE, ELECTRICAL WORK AND OTHER ALLIED WORKS ETC. AT HUMA, GANJAM DISTRICT IN ODISHA UNDER DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES ODISHA, DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & ANIMAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA."
Interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in>.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's website: www.bridgeroof.co.in and CPP portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in> only. THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER(S) : ON OR BEFORE 03.10.2019.

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
RFP No: 27128 Dt.27.09.2019
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Sealed Proposal are invited for "Advertisement Rights on Government Land in Bhubaneswar City" in conformity with the Terms & Conditions of the Detailed RFP in single bid system (Part-I: General & Technical Proposal and Part-II: Financial Proposal) from intending bidders fulfilling the terms of eligibility laid down in the RFP document. Please refer to Website www.bmc.gov.in for complete details and downloading the Document. The RFP document shall be available from **27.09.2019** with last date of submission being **25.10.2019 till 3:30 pm**.
For any queries please contact bmcpcmu@bmc.gov.in
By Order,
Dy. Commissioner (Revenue)
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
Progress Through Partnership for a Better Bhubaneswar

NOTICE BOARD

CROSSWORD 3922



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 1

Clothes of matching colours with various decorations (11)
- 2

Half the operations performed in the theatre (5)
- 9

The origin of an Erin Iad (7)
- 3

Breed that may be rare (4)
- 10

Extremist talk (5)
- 4

It's certainly not out of action (6)
- 11

Its purpose in sport is to eliminate passion (4)
- 5

Etching—or a watercolour? (8)
- 12

Submitted to the Spanish guard (8)
- 6

Baltic country resort one is at (7)
- 14

Quietly yearn for table linen (6)
- 7

Late tenders? (5,6)
- 16

It's sound in diplomacy (6)
- 8

Put in a word for the working classes (11)
- 18

Political favours? (8)
- 13

One who talks one round to composing some music (8)
- 19

Ruler of star potential (4)
- 15

Unusual stamp on a letter is entrusted to him (7)
- 22

He's found among fuel merchants (5)
- 17

Smiled widely, having support (6)
- 23

Wine forced on militant republicans (7)
- 20

I raced around and looked (5)
- 24

Where to find aces well looked after (2,4,5)
- 21

Notion not quite perfect (4)

Solutions Crossword 3921: Across: 1 Muscle, 4 Mistaken, 9 Drover, 10 Staring, 12 Sets, 13 Shell, 14 Shoe, 17 Reservations, 20 Asseveration, 23 Ante, 24 Witch, 25 Halo, 29 Aurora borealis, 30 Elephant, 31 Mousse. Down: 1 Made sure, 2 Scottish, 3 Lief, 5 Intelligence, 6 Tort, 7 Knight, 8 Nugget, 11 Cheap edition, 15 Brass, 16 Knead, 18 Picadors, 19 Annotate, 21 Marble, 22 Starve, 26 Rash, 27 Ludo.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

I used to work in a _____ factory. You couldn't park anywhere near the place - Steven Wright (4,7)

ALAER

ABRDNY

EHIRT

FIRTHS

SOLUTION: AREAL, THEIR, BRANDY, SHIRT
Answer: I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn't park anywhere near the place - Steven Wright

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 3983

Difficulty Level 1s Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 3982



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

team although, of course, it all depends what you're attempting to achieve. Try to distance yourself from difficult people and concentrate on what can be accomplished personally or professionally.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You may still be recovering from a bout of self-doubt. You know that it doesn't do much good to question your motives or criticise your achievements in much detail. Spend some time by yourself and you'll rediscover your lost sense of freedom and self-reliance.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

An intimate relationship still looks a little costly, but your generous instincts may persuade people that your feelings are genuine. Even if you have planned a relaxing break, you may be very preoccupied with professional hopes and achievements, on a partner's behalf if not on your account. There may be little or nothing you can do about it just yet, though.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It's full steam ahead for all of you whose ambitions lie in the educational sphere, overseas activities or legal questions. You can expect temporary obstacles at work, but as far as we can see they'll be easily overcome. You might have to apply a little extra charm, though.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Loved ones or close companions may advise caution and restraint, but they might be taking completely different considerations into account from those which preoccupy you. As usual, cost is the determining factor, so you'll have to count your cash very carefully.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Try to exercise patience and consideration in all your dealings with close partners. They are liable to fly off the handle if you put a foot wrong – and, probably, if you don't! Never was patience so utterly, totally necessary: wait your turn.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You now run the risk of missing out on exciting developments at work or at home by deliberating too much on matters of detail. There is no way to rush ahead until the groundwork is properly laid: perhaps it's time to bring family members in.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Planetary activity, focusing on energetic and potentially ambitious regions of your chart, brings a long-standing dispute over routine chores to a head. But don't let arguments over who does what ruin your day, for when it comes down to it, everyone has a role, including you.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Although you may be receiving a lot of sympathy and support from certain close associates, nobody can do your job for you. This is why you must now put your shoulder to the wheel and sort out your domestic situation. After all, if you're not happy at home then the rest of your life will suffer.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Steel yourself for a clash of temperament but set your sights on smoother times and maybe do a little more than your share of the chores. You must remember that the wise person rules their stars, while only the fool obeys them, and so the more responsibility you accept, the better off you'll be.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Nobody can really say that you have your feet on the ground – least of all you. Yet your understanding of people's deeper motives is second to none, and this is why you find it so easy to analyse the problems, if not to resolve them. One thing is clear though that you'll be tempted to solve difficulties by throwing money at them.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

If personal plans have come unstuck, then you can begin to put back the pieces. When your next opportunity comes around, you will do even better than last time. It's a day which favours shopping trips: can you spend your way to happiness? Well, perhaps, at least temporarily.

NOTICE BOARD EDUCATION

CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS



STUDY TOUR-NDIM
NDIM students returned from a successful study tour of Netherland, Belgium, France & Switzerland. The visit covered European Parliament in Belgium & visit to Coca-Cola plant near Paris. The way the products are recycled & drinks are made was studied in detail as the same technique is followed by coca cola worldwide. Visit to the UN headquarters in Geneva added to tremendous learning about the principles & purpose of the UN. Similarly visit to Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations resulted in lot of useful interaction with academic heads & Chairman of the school.



AWARD-SHARDA UNIVERSITY
It has been conferred with the 'Internationalization of Indian Institutions' award at the ASMA Annual Convention & Awards 2019. The event recognized 20+ promising universities & colleges in India that have made a significant, well-planned, well-executed impact toward comprehensive internationalization of education using innovative and creative techniques. The awards put the spotlight on those Indian Institutions that are committed towards excellence and have transformed their campuses into truly International education hubs. Y K Gupta, Pro-Chancellor, accepted an award on behalf of the University.



AWARD-RPVV
Anju Chawla, Principal, RPVV-B-1 Vasant Kunj was honoured with The State Teachers Award 2019 by Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal. She is an epitome of innovation and dedication in the field of education. Her perseverance, intelligence, commitment and meticulousness makes her one of the best Principals of DOE and deserving of this recognition. Her school gives excellent results academically (100% every year) with outstanding Quality Index.



EVENT-MDI
MDI Gurgaon, in collaboration with Volunteer4India (platform for people to participate in CSR and other activities for social causes), has initiated a 45-day pilot project to strengthen the PET waste management and recycling ecosystem in the city. (Short for polyethylene terephthalate, PET is used to make most plastic bottles.) The campaign, MDI Gurgaon said, is aimed towards seeking the truth about the current journey of PET bottles from rack to recycle. "It is a way to raise awareness and encourage Gurgaon-based local bodies to ensure proper collection, segregation, disposal and recycling of plastic waste,



ORIENTATION-VIPS
J. M.M.Kumar, President NCLT oriented 19th batch of law students at VIPS. J. Kumar in his address congratulate VIPS for its new batch & encouraged students with his words of wisdom. "J.Kumar has experience of Bar, Bench & Tribunal, thus he was one of the best orientar for the new batch students", Rashmi Salpekar, Dean, Law School said in her welcome speech. J.Kumar insisted that law is a serious profession as welfare of a client & society in all is in the hands of legal professionals. He motivate students to aspire big and cited many examples of great legal luminaries in support of the same.

CHARCOAL STUDIO is building up an Artist Community Space in Delhi NCR, where creative minds practicing different mediums of art can come together to develop a language of creativity, peace and harmony. Prabha Sarkar, an artist and art enthusiast first came up with the idea of opening their living space to artists and art enthusiasts to come and explore. On that note this event was conceptualized and various artists came together with an evening of Art.

IMT Ghaziabad has launched an Online Post Graduate Certificate Course in Talent Analytics for building future ready HR Managers. This short term six-month certificate program has been launched in association with IMT Centre for Distance Learning. This weekend program comprises of 60 hours of online sessions delivered by eminent experts from academia and industry, and will provide comprehensive knowledge and skillsets to HR & Talent Managers, and General Management executives working with medium to large-scale organizations.

VIPS Kanwal Jeet Arora, AD&SJ/Member Secretary, DLSLA, Dhirender Rana, Secretary, North DLSA and many other authorities conducted Para Legal Volunteers Training at Law School, VIPS on 4th and 5th September. Kanwal Jeet Arora, in his address congratulates VIPS for having Legal Aid Clinic and encouraged students to act as PLV. He emphasised that for issues mainly missing children, and other we need to make PLVs. More than 150 students were trained by the DLSLA. Prof Rashmi Salpekar, Dean welcomed the guests.

The NorthCap University Commemorating life and efforts of one of the greatest Indian Engineer, Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya, The NorthCap University celebrated 52nd Engineer's Day with the theme 'Engineering for Change' dated 19 September 2019. Sandeep Handa, Honorary Secretary, IE(I) Faridabad Local Centre, Chief Guest instigated the audience a need of large number of engineers in the coming time. Pro-Chancellor Prof. Prem Vrat and Vice Chancellor Prof. HB Raghavendra in their address to students congratulated all the engineers for their commendable efforts in shaping the anomalies. How important an engineer is, a student's group represented it through a skit. Engineering for change for good, it develops a balanced growth in the society and to enhance the system one must not forget the contribution of the core branches of engineering says Prof. Prem Vrat, Pro Chancellor, Professor of Eminence, The NorthCap University.

Lotus Valley In the fond memory of Parul Puri, one of the founder teachers, Lotus Valley International School, Noida, organized the 3rd Parul Puri Memorial Inter-School Declamation Competition, on Friday, 20th September, 2019. The day commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by a cultural program. Principal, Dr Ruchi Seth welcomed the distinguished guests and judges. In her speech, she fondly remembered Parul Puri and praised her for her gentleness, commitment to work and exemplary oratory skills. While the topic of discussion for class IV was 'My mind says no, My heart says go', the students of class V spoke on 'Tick Tock says the clock, No place on earth, Where to flock! 12 teams from various eminent schools of Noida and Delhi competed for the coveted trophy. The proud winner of the Best School rolling trophy was The Shriram Millennium School, Noida. The awards for the Best Speakers, Classes IV & V, were bagged by The Shriram Millennium School, Noida and Pragyan School, Greater Noida, respectively. Cambridge School Noida, was honoured by a Special Mention. The event culminated with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms Neerja Rishi, In-charge (classes V-VI).

VIDYAMANDIR CLASSES Another milestone has been created by the students of Vidyamandir Classes as more than 20 students have qualified for PRMO exams 2019. The pre-Regional Mathematical Olympiad exam is the first stage examination of Mathematical Olympiad Programme in India. A total number of 23 students from Noida and Gurgaon have qualified for the PRMO exam 2019. Out of which, 16 students are from Noida division and 7 students are from the Gurgaon branch. Commenting on the remarkable result, Saurabh Kumar, Director Academic Head of Medical Division, said, "PRMO exams are one of the trickiest exams as it is related with Maths and requires the knack of analytical and reasoning skills. We are extremely proud of our students and this result is a testimony of their complete hard work and trust in our teaching.

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Public Health Department : Karol Bagh Zone
No. DHO/KBZ/2019/1537 Dated:- 25.09.2019
TENDER NOTICE
Sub:- Sealed-Short notice tender for purchase of Fuel Wood for Cremation Ground, Inder Puri, Karol Bagh Zone for the year 2019-2020.
Sealed short notice tenders in double bid system i.e. Technical and financial bids are invited for supply of 350 metric tons Fuel Wood (260 metric ton fuel wood — kabar wood and 90 metric tons of Farra Wood) for Cremation Ground, Inderpuri Karol Bagh, Zone, North DMC for the year 2019-2020.
The tender documents, terms and conditions & detailed specifications of the wood can be obtained from the office of Dy. Health Officer, Room No. 407, MCD Nigam Bhawan, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Anand Parbat, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 on payment of Rs. 1000/- (non-refundable) along with form from 01-10-2019 to 09-10-2019 upto 11:00 AM. For more details may contact at above address
Deputy Health Officer
Karol Bagh, Zone
R.O No. 101/DPI/North DMC/2019-20

CSIR-CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Roorkee- 247667 (Uttarakhand)
Notice Inviting e-Tender
CSIR-CBRI invites online tenders through CPP portal in two bid system for following work(s):-
Tender ID:- 2019_CSIR_32894_1, Name of the Work "Annual Petty Electrical Maintenance Work of CBRI Colony", Estimated Cost Rs 7.88 Lakhs, (Including GST & all Taxes) Tender Cost Rs. 590.00 Earnest Money Rs 15760.00, Period of Completion 365 days, Last time and date of submission of bid is 11.10.2019 up to 5.00 p.m.
The tender document and other details can be viewed / downloaded from the website <https://etenders.gov.in>
The press notice is also available on website of CSIR-CBRI i.e. <http://www.cbri.res.in>.
Corrigendum / Addition / Clarification / Notification in respect of NIT of the above said work, if any, will be uploaded on the CPP Portal.
I/C TSG

NAGAR PARISHAD CHATRA				
VERY SHORT TENDER e-procurement				
Tender Reference No.- UDD/CH/NPC/02/2019-20				
Sl.No	Particular			
1	Name of Work	Construction of Shopping Complex near Naiky Talab at ward no.- 16 under Nagar Parishad Chatra for the year 2019-20		
		Estimate Cost	Earnest Money	
		19339670.57/-	386800/-	
2	Name of Work	Beautification of Main Chowk/ Chaurahas at Pansalwa Chowk, Kutchery Chowk, Near DC Awas Chowk and Post Office Chowk under Nagar Parishad Chatra for the year 2019-20		
		Estimate Cost	Earnest Money	
		3277824.75/-	65600/-	
3	Date of Tender Uploading in Website -http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	28.09.2019 at 5:00 PM		
4	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	28.09.2019 at 5:00 AM		
5	Last Date/Time for Receipt of Bid	10.10.2019 upto 5:00 PM		
6	Last Date for Received of EMD/Cost of BOQ.	11.10.2019 upto 5:00 PM, in the office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chatra (Jharkhand)		
7	Date & Address of Opening Tender Office	12.10.2019 upto 3:00 PM, in the office of Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chatra (Jharkhand)		
8	Name & Address of Office inviting Tender	Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chatra (Jharkhand)		
9	Contact No. of Procurement Office	+91-8340343116		
10	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	0651-2480345		
• Further details can be seen on notice board & official website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> जिसे अब तक ना समझे, वो कहानी है मैं, मुझे बर्बाद मत करो पानी है मैं </div>				
PR 218155 (Urban Development)19-20#D				

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
सूचना सं.-18/NEC/IR-SOLP/2019 दि.-26.09.2019
मुख्य विक्रेता अधीक्षक, बीकानेर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति एवं उनकी ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु दो पैकेट सिस्टम के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में दिनांक 18.10.2019 को 15.00 बजे तक खुली ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। (1) कार्य का नाम: उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर मंडल की सुर एवं सड़कपथ स्थित विभिन्न रेलवे कॉलोनिजों की सफाई व कुड़े कचरे इत्यादि का मैकेनाइज्ड ट्रॉली से निस्तारण का कार्य। (2) कार्य की अवधि: दो वर्ष (3) अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 89,48,045.50/- (4) बरोहर राशि: ₹ 1,79,000/- (5) निविदा फॉर्म शुल्क: ₹ 5000/- (6) प्रस्ताव की वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करना एवं खोलना: प्रस्ताव का दिनांक 18.10.2019 को 15.00 बजे तक वेबसाइट पर अपलोड करना एवं ई-निविदा का 18.10.2019 को 15.30 बजे खुलना। (7) वेबसाइट का विवरण: www.ireps.gov.in 954-DE/19
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HUSTLERS ★★★

Director: Lorene Scafaria Cast: Jennifer Lopez, Constance Wu, Julia Stiles, Keke Palmer, Lili Reinhart

Catch me if You Can

SHALINI LANGER

THERE IS a moment in *Hustlers* when Lopez, her golden-brown skin bathed in neon lights, sheathed in a tiny sequinned G-string and a giant fur coat, enjoying a leisurely smoke on the roof of a strip club, opens the folds of her jacket to nestle a new girl in. That brief scene, warm and hot, all at the same time, could have been this film. About women who have bent the rules of the game their way, while holding each other up.

The clip between Lopez's Ramona and Wu's Destiny slips in while we are still breathless from the exhilaration of watching Lopez do a turn around a strip pole. It's a bold and uninhibited performance as Ramona swirls, climbs, slides, twirls and almost flies around that steel, while the jaws of the audience drop and the dollars pour in. This role of a sexy performer is perfect for the actor with undeniable charisma, and Lopez owns *Hustlers* from that moment.

But the film is too timid to return the generosity. Inspired by a *New York Magazine* article about a group of strippers who managed to con Wall Street guys for a couple of years running, this film written and directed by Scafaria wants its women to be "cons" but for all the "right" reasons — a child to support, an ailing grandmother, an imprisoned fiancée, unsupportive parents. Nothing wrong with having them aspire for furs, pearls and diamonds, but Louboutins really do not go well with Lehmann Brothers here, your message is "greed is bad", especially of the Wall Street kind.

The point keeps being emphasised, off and on, as we follow essentially Destiny from the time she takes her first hesitant steps into that strip club, puts up with demands of men moulded seemingly out of the same clay, sees her money dwindle to almost nothing as she shares the proceeds with those who run



the club, to when Ramona takes her under her wing and her fortunes change. The moment of crisis in the film is the 2008 market collapse, leaving their customers without cash to throw around, and requiring the girls to re-invent. A single mother by then, Destiny eventually falls in with Ramona's all-girls scheme of fleecing (really stupid) men by slipping drugs into their drinks and maxing out their credit cards. They gamble that the men won't go to police and, for the longest part, they don't.

While *Hustlers* is focused on the women, particularly behind the scenes at the strip club, it's refreshing. The women are there with all their skin, breasts, buttocks, smarts and warts, showing, bound together by an unjudgmental eye and an easy camaraderie. While Cardie B shows up, even here, in her striking presence, Lopez is the embodiment of the energy, aspiration and confidence in that room.

When the story progresses, to the schemes and the scammed men, a journalist putting the story together, and the women

reeling in money but also trying to explain it away as a necessary evil, it starts becoming repetitive and loses its verve. Having Destiny at the centre of it all doesn't help. While Wu (*Crazy Rich Asians*) is good, a film like *Hustlers* requires a Ramona to shine. Plus, she has the film's best line, whatever the fuzzy politics behind it: "This whole country is a strip club. There are people tossing money and people doing the dance."

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the show is strongly reminiscent of a Subhash Ghai-meets-Karan Johar epic. The horror. Anand's moniker in the show is 'Bard', given his tendency to quote from Shakespeare, but apart from the first two episodes with token lines from *Henry VIII*, we don't hear much from the Bard of Avon.

Many of the big ticket items in the streaming world work, because of the level of emotional attachment that the audience have with the characters, both big and small. Here, apart from Anand, no one else has even a trace of a back story. We know Veer's father has Alzheimer's, and that Isha Mathur lives with her mother. But, what else? Come on, there were seven, fifty-minute-long episodes. Surely a minute each for Khanna and Singh could have gone a long way. Singh, who is a brilliant actor and we hope to see him more, is a victim of lazy writing. An entire scene in the show is a frame by frame copy of the *Murraba* segment of *Bombay Talkies* (2013), directed by Anurag Kashyap. As for Dhulipala, she has adapted well to the non-glam avatar after her earlier appearance in the super dressy *Made In Heaven*.

A special note to the makers: not all terrorists, member of the Taliban and men that side of border wear *surma* or kohl. Especially this dark, intense as night, non-smudge kohl, which stays put in the most violent of action sequences. And what's with the weird Afghani/Pakistani/Baloch/Pashto accent? It all sounds like the actors were trained using the old VHS tapes of *Khudaa Gawah*.

We have not had many great spy stories in Hindi cinema, barring examples of the pioneering *Ankhen* (1958) and the slick *Jewel Thief* (1969). What has followed are offerings like *Agent Vinod*, *Ek Tha Tiger* and its sequel and a forgettable *Dishoom*. The mediocre streak remains unbroken with *Bard of Blood*. Watch it for the surroundings, shot so well that you can almost taste the brown sand, because honestly, your chance to make it across the border in the current political climate is slim.

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We are Listening

BULBUL CAN SING

★★★★

Director: Rima Das
Cast: Arnali Das, Manoranjan Das, Banita Thakuriya, Pakija Begum

SHUBHRA GUPTA

YOUNG BULBUL is like the bird she's named after: chirpy, curious, lively, exploring the many shades of life with her best friends, Bonny and Suman. They — the two girls and boy — are inseparable both in school and after, sharing silly jokes, secrets, sulks, snubs and silences, just like any other teenage gang anywhere in the world. Watching them share physical space, sprawled on a bed or on the ground, limbs carelessly bushing against each other, bound by deep affection not desire, is to see something rare in Indian cinema.

The fact that this trio and their friends and families live in a tiny Assam village, make them a very particular set indeed. Instead of the sterilised malls and multiplexes of their urban counterparts, their playground is their surroundings: fields full of water where you can cast your fishing net, or trail your fingers, trees you can climb, and trunks you can scratch your names in, flowers you can pick from the grass and braid in your hair.

One of the most striking things about Rima Das's films is just how vividly nature becomes a participant in 'plots' fashioned, organically, by human wants, needs and frailties: Bulbul (Arnali) is discovering the headiness of a first crush, as is Bonny (Thakuriya); the two 'boy-friends' are in the same class. And Suman, who is soft and tender, is left adjusting to this new equation.

The strongest, most effective thread in Das's third feature, which follows the terrific *Village Rockstars*, is the one which examines the difficulties of being a boy in a world where male-ness is equated with hardness. Little boys tease Suman, call him 'Ladies', as do grown men who should know better. In a scene which breaks your heart, Suman says: 'how is it my fault? God made me like this. Am I the only one like this?'

The hypocrisy with which we deal with teenage sexuality is laid bare with savage economy. From Bulbul's father who wants her to become a singer, to Bonny's mother who disapproves of her daughter's ways, to the school-teacher who has an eye on the budding beauty of Bulbul, to a gossip group of women: such a strong wave of sanction emanates from these adults, that it washes up against the foursome, who are just doing what comes naturally to those with bursting hormones.

There's a shocking death, and suddenly the sun-dappled film becomes dark. Das takes us up a horrific peak, shows us the ugliness of humans who are cruel and quick to judge, and then softens the blow. And leaves us in a place where grieving will, inevitably, lead to hope and restoration.

I fell in love with *Village Rockstars* and its youthful characters who didn't 'act' as much as just danced, pranced, splashed across the landscape. *Bulbul Can Sing*, which won the Best Assamese film at the 2019 National Awards, and which can be seen both as a companion piece and as its own film, is more 'performed'. But the natural-ness of the actors wins you over. Equally winning is what it leaves you with: growing up is not all fun and games, but there can be rainbows if we go looking.

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Spy Games and Shadow Play

BARD OF BLOOD (Netflix)

★★★

Director: Ribhu Dasgupta
Cast: Emraan Hashmi, Viineet Kumar Singh and Sobhita Dhulipala

EKTAA MALIK

THE ONE thing that you are sure to do after watching the first few episodes of Netflix's latest mega offering *Bard of Blood*, is to Google, 'where was *Bard of Blood* shot'? Alternatively you might type in Balochistan. Much of the show is set there, and while the makers, including producer Shah Rukh Khan, couldn't make it across the border to shoot, our own dry, arid terrains of Leh, Ladakh and Rajasthan make for a passably stunning Balochistan. So first things first, *Bard of Blood* is a mega-budget web series, based on the eponymous 2015 book written by Bilal Siddiqi. The book, which was supremely detailed, has been crunched to befit a screen-play, a few elements have been highlighted and the lead characters made more dramatic. The show, directed by Ribhu Dashupta, has as its core, Kabir Anand (Emraan Hashmi), a former agent of the Indian secret service who has been roped in for an off-the-books mission by his former mentor and father figure, Sadiq Sir (Rajit Kapoor). The mission at hand is to cross the border and rescue four Indian operatives captured by the Taliban. Sounds simple enough. And for those who have followed Indian spy lore and spy narratives on screen, you know everything is possible.

Bard of Blood, while following a typical, formulaic, espionage template, tried to go for the human-heavy-on-emotion angle. We discover that relations between the former mentor/father figure and Anand have soured,



courtesy a mission which went south in — you guessed it — Balochistan. No one trusts anyone. Anand has his own guilt to deal with, as he lost a dear friend and partner in the ill-fated mission in Balochistan. He now teaches English Literature at a college in Mumbai. Of course, we are not surprised when the able student is ready to go on a rogue mission at the bidding of his teacher. He is almost relieved to have an analyst — Isha Khanna (Sobhita Dhulipala), who has never had any prior field experience to come along for the ride. The more, the merrier, and to complete the trifecta, enter Veer Singh (Viineet Kumar Singh), a sleeper Indian agent who moonlights as an opium smuggler on the Pak-Afghan border. So far, so good.

But as the show progresses, the narrative falls prey to contrived writing and convenient plot devices. Keeping in tune with every

spy tale ever written, the team faces hiccups and setbacks, and are often lagging behind in the cat-and-mouse game. Intel is gathered, information bartered, and an ex-flame appears in the nick of time. Simultaneously, we are also thrown into the deep end of international geopolitics. The Taliban and their nexus with the Pakistani military and intelligence services, the insurgency in Balochistan etc, all these are conveniently used to further the narrative, but they hold little depth. Spanning seven-episodes, the series was meant to be slow burn, but it often drags. Melodramatic dialogues and cumbersome lines don't do justice to the stellar cinematography. Lines like "Maut ki baat mat karo mujhse, maine maut ko bahut kareeb se dekha hai", don't really work today and neither does, "To bury my past once and for all". Then there is an angle of personal vendetta and guilt. At times

BREAKING DOWN NEWS

Fighting Words

Imran Khan's tweet on a counter-narrative to Islamophobia freaks out the Twitter AI while climate activist Greta Thunberg inspires and provokes in equal measure



BY PRATIK KANJILAL

AT THE SAARC meet in New York on Thursday, while all eyes were on Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's refusal to share space, time and breathable air with his Indian counterpart, a more fruitful meeting was in progress elsewhere in the city. *ARY News* and *Dawn*, among other Pakistani media, reported on a trilateral meet between Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Malaysian prime minister

Mahathir Mohamad, to develop a counter-narrative to Islamophobia. The three countries will jointly promote a TV channel and films to set the record straight.

Khan tweeted: "President Erdogan, PM Mahatir (sic) and myself had a meeting today in which we decided our 3 countries would jointly start an English language channel dedicated to confronting the challenges posed by Islamophobia and setting the record straight on our great religion — Islam." Another propaganda channel. But why not? Here in India, Mrs Gandhi created one to perpetuate her rule. The BJP launched one only for the duration of the last general election. The Kremlin has its own. This is the old normal.

And perhaps there is a need for a counter-narrative, because Khan's tweet freaked out the Twitter AI. It hustled to do its stuff, blanking out the tweet and flagging it: "This media may contain sensitive material." Such hyper-

sensitivity reflects either its programmers' prejudices, or it has learned far too much from the data in the angry little boil that social media has become, where 'Islam' and 'Islamophobia' can be read as fighting words.

Fighting words were also heard last week from climate activist Greta Thunberg in a Congressional hearing in the US. Then, the world applauded her for her maturity in drawing attention to what climate scientists had to say, rather than what she had to say. But by the middle of this week, it became clear that she had sparked off a global youth movement. *The Guardian* and the *BBC* were focusing on protests held all over the

world. And the tide turned, with many people, including the environmentally conscious, finding her "annoying". The word was popping up everywhere on social media and in comments on stories accompanied by pictures of Thunberg looking angry.

Crowds have been fickle from the time of the Roman circus, and in the age of politics as spectacle, blowback is normal. A gender spin developed in America, with many believing that Thunberg is threatening because she has stepped out of the gender box. She is 16, but is not being asked by the press whether she likes Gap or H&M. This is apparently scary. The obvious truth is even

Another propaganda channel. But why not? Here in India, Mrs Gandhi created one to perpetuate her rule. The BJP launched one only for the duration of the last general election.

scarier. From the publication of *Silent Spring* in 1962, environmentalism has proclaimed that it works to secure the lives of the children of the future. A child now accuses us, her elders, represented by the political community, of failing her. To be told the blunt truth is generally unnerving, especially when convenient fabrications are the norm.

Those who are tiring of the Thunberg story, rejoice, because it is about to be shouldered off the information superhighway. Talk of impeachment is in the air. The blunt truth is finally out, with the public release of the complaint of the whistleblower who has called out President Trump's attempt to use the good offices of the new government in Ukraine to further his chances in elections due next year. Now, the spectre of foreign meddling in America's choice, which had dogged the last election, is out in the open and as CNN reports, the Democrats have little choice but to move for impeachment.

The whistleblower, who appears to be an intelligence officer, had helpfully marked his letter of complaint unclassified "when separated from the attachments" (those would be gripping). He accuses the administration of trying to wipe traces of a July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy (officially,

the world's first comedian to head a nation), in which he sought to offset military aid against a commitment to help investigate his rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter. Meanwhile Michael McCaul, Stanford teacher and Obama's ambassador to Moscow, has posted a picture from his tenure, showing how a head-to-head call happens. Off camera, Obama is on the line with prime minister Dmitry Medvedev, and a bunch of officials and aides in the White House Situation Room are listening in on a speakerphone and taking notes. It illustrates how many officials must be leaned on to conceal the details of a call.

Misuse of office to get your political dirty work done is ample ground for impeachment. But it's only a preliminary step, rather like an FIR being filed by the representatives of the lower House. A trial must follow, conducted by the upper House, giving stiff competition to courtroom dramas. Meanwhile, rumours about an Israeli intelligence company, Saudi Arabia and the Russian mob have surfaced, as media and activists in Ukraine and the Middle East start assembling a timeline of events. The picture will get murkier before it clears.

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Now there are three formats, and if Virat is feeling overloaded, maybe they should try somebody else for the T20 format. Rohit has been a very successful captain."

— YUVRAJ SINGH

Weather forces BCCI to reschedule Vijay Hazare matches

DEVENDRA PANDEY
SEPTEMBER 27

THE INDIAN board has decided to reschedule Vijay Hazare tournament after a few Group A league games were washed out by rain in Bangalore. Many domestic teams had requested rescheduling the lost games on off-days and the board agreed.

Not just Bangalore, but the Group B teams, that are being held in Vadodara, have also been severely hit. The first couple of league games of all teams have been a wash out. BCCI general manager cricket operations Saba Karim said that not only the Bangalore games but all washed-out games will be re-scheduled.

"We had a discussion and we are grateful to BCCI, who approved our request. In our meeting with BCCI's KVP Rao with all managers of various states team requested to re-schedule washed out games so that teams can get a chance to play. Since the time we landed, there has been rain, we didn't get decent practice session too," Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) manager Armaan Mallik told The Indian Express.

"We will have games on rest days and revise schedule has been sent, the matches will be now played till October 17. Our intention is that players get as many games possible before the full season begins. It's a such a prestigious tournament after all," Karim said.

Chattisgarh, Hyderabad and Mumbai couldn't play their first two games whereas six other teams_Karnataka, Andhra, Saurashtra, Kerala, Goa and Jharkhand lost a game each due to rain. Eight games in Plate league too has turned into no-result.

Meanwhile, MCA has requested BCCI to give a chance to each team to play at Chinnaswamy Stadium. At present, the home team Karnataka are playing all their games at Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"We also made a request that each team plays on game at Chinnaswamy Stadium rather than just the home team playing all games at one venue," Mallik said. "Last season during Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy held in Kolkata, Sourav Ganguly had ensured that each team plays at least one game in Eden Gardens. Bengal didn't go by home advantage."

J&K register big win over Rajasthan

Jaipur: Jammu & Kashmir registered a facile 55-run win over host Rajasthan in a Group C match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Friday. Put in to bat, J&K made 317 for 5 in 50 overs thanks to impressive knocks by Shubham Khajuria (94) and Shubham Singh Pundir (96 not out). Leggie Rahul Chahar, who recently broke into the Indian T20 side, finished with 2 for 50 in 9 overs while Deepak Chahar went wicketless in 9 overs giving away 53 runs.

Rajasthan struggled in the chase and ended up with 262, being dismissed in 49 overs. Captain Mahipal Lomror top scored with 88 while Chetan Bist made a strokeful 72 but the team was always behind the run rate.

In Dehradun, Unmukt Chand hit an unbeaten 80 to help Uttarakhand defeat Assam by seven wickets in a rain-curtailed Plate group match.

PTI

Diana refuses to take up MCA membership till BCCI elections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

DIANA EDULJI, one of the three members of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrator (COA), has re-cused herself from taking membership of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) and the Indian Cricketers Association (ICA) until the BCCI elections get over.

The Indian board had asked all former international and retired domestic cricketers — men and women — to apply for ICA's membership. Then, on Friday, the MCA issued a notice to former international players hailing from its jurisdiction to become a member to get voting rights at the MCA election to be held on October 4.

However, Edulji believes that since she is part of COA, it will unfair if she takes up the membership and voting rights in the MCA and ICA elections.

"I have not filled up any form and will not do it as I am currently a COA member. I thought it will be unfair if I vote in election process of players or in MCA election. That is why I have decided to stay away from it. I will only become a member once the BCCI election is over and our responsibility ends," Edulji told *The Indian Express*.

As per the Lodha Committee recommendations, each association will have to make its former international cricketers a member with voting rights. Edulji had played 20



Security personnel escort the Pakistani and Sri Lankan teams out of Karachi's National Stadium after the first ODI is abandoned due to rain. AP

Ex-India manager hints at cover-up to save support staff member in Antigua

Member of travelling party behaved inappropriately with hotel personnel, CEO office kept quiet:Subramaniam

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 27

FORMER INDIA team manager Sunil Subramaniam has claimed that a member of the support staff was investigated by, among others, the Antigua police for 'behaving inappropriately' with the housekeeping personnel of the team hotel. Subramaniam also lashed out at the BCCI for inaction, saying it was 'beyond belief'. The alleged incident took place during the first Test between India and West Indies in Antigua from August 22 to 26.

Subramaniam, whose stint as the team manager ended after the Caribbean tour, highlighted the issue in an email to the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) on September 25. Subramaniam also alleged that the BCCI hushed up the issue even after the inquiry conducted by the local police, hotel management and an official from the West Indies Cricket Board found the support staff member guilty.

Subramaniam said he was informed about the alleged misconduct by WICB's manager of operations Roland Holder. "Investigation by the Hotel management, Antiguan Police, Roland Holder of Cricket West Indies and myself along with the team Security manager and logistics manager did confirm that it was indeed a member of the support staff," he wrote in the email.

He added that the 'inaction of the BCCI on

a matter as grave as this is beyond belief." "The matter was handled in such a manner that the team and more importantly the concerned member of the team was spared any embarrassment from any entity that would exploit it for obvious reasons," Subramaniam wrote. "I am beginning to wonder if this is some kind of old boys club at the CEO's office that has its own clique to protect or are they dismissive and disdainful about such transgressions in the Indian team?"

Subramaniam was removed as the manager after he was accused of high-handed behaviour with top officials of the Indian High Commission during the tour. He, however, claimed that the support staff member accused of misbehaviour "is still very much a part of the Indian team."

In a subsequent email, however, Subramaniam backed down from allegations made regarding BCCI not taking any action and requested the CoA to 'withdraw the earlier email sent'. "The reference to old boys club in the letter was purely in the context of some members of the support staff in the cricket team who were not doing the work expected out of them. As regards the indiscretion of support staff mentioned, it would be best if he has a word spoken to on not to repeat such indiscretions in future. A detailed report as a follow up to the match report will be sent later."

'No reason to apologize'

In the email, Subramaniam has also claimed that the Indian team had to skip a

Subramaniam has also claimed that the Indian team had to skip a training session in Trinidad as they spent four hours shooting for the government's Swachh Bharat campaign.

training session in Trinidad as they spent four hours shooting for the government's Swachh Bharat campaign.

Subramaniam was accused of misbehaving with the officials of the Indian high commission in the West Indies. The BCCI had contemplated calling him back midway from the tour, but the CoA let him off with a reprimand after he tendered 'an unconditional apology'.

Subramaniam, however, said in the email that 'I have no reason to be apologetic over the issue' and he had done so only to avoid a 'needless controversy in the middle of an already poorly organised tour wherein issues on the teams basic comforts off the field needed to (be) addressed first.'

"Let me set the facts straight. On receipt of a mail on requirement of the Indian Team for the (sic) Swachh Bharat shoot on 10th August..., the shoot which took 4 hours and a practice session was skipped for it, was completed on 13th August. Does any unbiased mind think that the team would have agreed to do that if they did not have my trust and am I really the kind of person to disobey instructions?"

Subramaniam wrote.

Subramaniam said he requested the second secretary of the Indian consulate in Trinidad for a written communication from senior BCCI officials to get the team for a shoot. He continued: "Does the BCCI seriously expect team manager to organise the Indian team for such a major off the field event during an overseas tour based on a whatsapp message from an official of the Indian Consulate in Trinidad wherein BCCI's internal administrative functions are casually messaged that "Mr.Vinod Rai has spoken to Virat Kohli" or on an instruction/communication from the BCCI to the team manager?"

He went on to highlight the logistical problems faced by the team during the tour, saying meals weren't served on time at some locations while the team had to wait for four hours in the lobby of the hotel in Port of Spain. "The hotel in Fort Lauderdale was substandard, no meals were served on a 4 hour chartered flight from Fort Lauderdale to Georgetown, Guyana, missed baggage's on the flight from Georgetown to Port of Spain and the team had to wait 4 hours in the lobby of the hotel at Port of Spain, Trinidad before allotment of 12 rooms which incidentally included rooms for the Captain and the Head Coach," he wrote.

Subramaniam urged the BCCI to appoint a professional logistics manager for the team to avoid such incidents in future. "The role of the current logistics manager is not aligned to industry standards for any professional organization," he remarked.

Azhar elected Hyderabad body's president

PTI & ENS
SEPTEMBER 27

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN'S cricketing life came full circle on Friday when the former India captain, who was indicted for match-fixing and banned forever from playing, was elected as president of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). Azhar polled 173 votes while his opponent Prakash Chand Jain got 73 votes. His entire panel won their respective contests. The victory marks his official entry into cricket administration two years after his nomination was rejected on technical grounds. He vowed to work for the welfare of his association.

"If there is progress in cricket, there will be progress in association. If association is healthy, every person will be happy. The association had not been healthy for the last three. Now, it is all clear and we will move ahead," Azharuddin said.

The 56-year-old, who has also served as a Congress MP from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, led India to a spate of Test series wins over England, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at home in the 1990s. A stylish batsman, famous for his wrist wizardry, Azhar fell from grace after he was implicated in the 2000 match-fixing scandal that shook the core of Indian cricket. However, the Andhra High Court had ruled that the investigation against him was not conducted properly. He praised former Chief Election Commissioner V S Sampath, who oversaw the HCA polls.

"When election is fair, my nomination could not have been rejected (two years ago),

but (now) fair election happened. Sampath sir followed clear-cut rules and regulations. That's why a proper election happened. No problem occurred in the election and I am very happy and thankful to members and secretaries (of districts), they elected and made me HCA president," Azharuddin said.

Azharuddin, who appeared in 99 Tests and 334 ODIs, filed his nomination for the president's post in the HCA last week.

Anurag Thakur's brother elected HPCA boss

Meanwhile in Dharamsala, Arun Dhumal, younger brother of former BCCI president and current MoS (finance) Anurag Thakur was elected president of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) unopposed, during its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday. Una district's Sumit Sharma is the new secretary of HPCA as there was no opposition against the Dhumal-led panel. The AGM happened on expected lines and former Himachal CM Prem Kumar Dhumal's younger son could be a strong contender for a plum post in the BCCI — either as an office bearer or as a member of the all-important Apex Council during BCCI AGM on October 23. However for that, he will have to relinquish his state body's position.

Odisha: Father votes from jail, son becomes secretary

In Cuttack, Sanjay Behera was on Friday elected the secretary of Odisha Cricket



Mohammad Azharuddin. File

Association (OCA) while his father, arrested sports administrator, Ashirbad voted from jail. However the election can turn "null and void" as any charge-sheeted person cannot take part in the poll process. In a direct contest for the coveted secretary's post of the OCA, Sanjay defeated another veteran sports administrator Naba Ranjan Patnaik by 20 votes.

Interestingly the former secretary of OCA, Ashirbad, who was arrested by CBI last week following a supplementary chargesheet against him for his alleged links with ponzi firm Artha Tatva Group of Companies, voted through postal ballot. Ashirbad, who is above 70 years of age, has served the OCA for a cumulative period of over nine years, had to step down in February 2017 to fall in line with the Lodha Committee recommendations.

Pak's ten-year wait gets a bit longer as first ODI is rained off in Karachi

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 27

HEAVY RAIN washed out the opening match of Sri Lanka's tour of Pakistan before play began on Friday, disappointing cricket fans who had flocked to the stadium for what was to be the first ODI played on a Karachi pitch in a decade. Teams have been reluctant to visit the cricket-mad country since a deadly militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in 2009, and Karachi has not hosted a one-day international since then. Since then Pakistan have been forced to play nearly all of their "home" matches in the United Arab Emirates due to security concerns.

Heavy showers began as soon the teams were whisked into the National Stadium under tight security in the afternoon. The disappointment from spectators was palpable.

Karachi will still host the remaining ODIs on the tour, with Sunday's match rescheduled to Monday to avoid possible rain. The two teams will also play three Twenty20 internationals in Lahore next month.

Security measures

The latest series is an attempt by Pakistan Cricket Board to bring international cricket back into the country following the 2009 attacks. Zimbabwe were the first team to tour in Pakistan for six years when they played two Twenty20s and three one-day internationals in Lahore in 2015.

That was followed by a World XI tour and home T20 matches against Sri Lanka and the West Indies. For the current tour, Pakistan have put in place stringent security measures normally reserved for heads of state.

All the arrangements are being led by the country's military, with around 2,000 security personnel on alert at the team's hotel and at the ground. But the security guarantee did not stop the withdrawal of several key Sri Lankan players, including regular ODI captain Dimuth Karunaratne as well as former captains Angelo Mathews and Dinesh Chandimal. The tour was also put on hold after the Sri Lankan government received information of a possible terror threat, before an all-clear was issued last week.

I'd unfinished business: Arthur

Pakistan's former cricket coach Mickey Arthur on Friday defended his comments that linked former captains Wasim Akram and Misbah-ul-Haq to his ousting last month. Arthur caused a stir in Pakistani cricket circles earlier this week after he went into detail about his axing in an interview with ESPNcricinfo podcast Stump Mic. Following a disappointing World Cup performance, the Pakistan Cricket Board set up a committee including Wasim and Misbah to shape the team's future direction. The committee decided against renewing Arthur's contract, which paved the way for Misbah to be named the country's chief selector and new head coach.

Arthur said he had supported the participation of both Wasim and Misbah on the committee but was disappointed with the decision after placing his trust in them.

Speaking to AFP by phone from Perth, he said, "I was dignified in my comments because I love Pakistan, the players I worked with, spent time with for three years and respect Misbah and Wasim. I felt disappointed because I had some unfinished business to do with the Pakistan team and would have loved to continue."

Revival group emerges as dominant force in Baroda

In Vadodara, the Revival group bagged three of the five key posts in the elections for the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) held on Friday. Pranav Amin from the Revival group went on to win the President's post with a margin of over 90 per cent votes, while Sheetal Mehta from the same group bagged the Vice President's post and Ajit Patel secured the Treasurer's post. Meanwhile from the Royal group, Ajit Lele went on to win the post of the secretary and the Parag Patel secured the post of the joint secretary. A total of 1488 votes were cast.

The Royal Group headed by Samarjitsinh Gaekwad had fielded Jatin Vakil, a managing committee member and an advocate as its presidential candidate while the opposition group, the Revival Group headed by industrialist Chirayut Amit had fielded Pranav Amin for the President's post. The last election in BCA was held in 2013, when royal scion Gaekwad had won the president's post but candidates from the Revival group had managed to bag the majority other posts in the managing committee. However, in 2016 Gaekwad was sacked from the president's post during an AGM.

BRIEFLY

Deepak Punia is World No.1

New Delhi: World Championship silver medallist wrestler Deepak Punia has jumped to world number one position in 86kg but Bajrang Punia lost the top rank in the 65kg category in the latest rankings issued by the international federation (UWW). Competing in his maiden senior World Championship, Deepak settled for a silver after an ankle injury forced him to pull out of the final against Iranian great Hasan Yazdani. The 20-year-old now has 82 points, four more than World Champion Yazdani. This year, Deepak had won a silver Yasar Dogu and bronze medals at Asian Championship and at Sassari tournaments. He has been rewarded for his consistent show. However, Bajrang, who went into the World Championship as world number one, dropped to number two spot after managing a bronze. **PTI**

Gangjee takes lead in Japan; Sandhu 6th

Kobe: Defending champion Rahil Gangjee moved into sole lead at the Panasonic Open Golf Championship with a flawless eight-under 63 while Ajeetesh Sandhu climbed to tied sixth in Kobe on Friday. Sandhu holed an ace and then parred the next six before snatching a final birdie on way to 66. Viraj Madappa (74-68) at tied 58th also made the cut, while Shiv Kapur (72-71) was one shot off the projected line at even par with some players yet to finish. Khalin Joshi (71-73) and S Chikkarangappa (71-75) missed the cut. As Gangjee went through the day with eight birdies, Sandhu had two birdies against a bogey on front nine and added another birdie on 10th. Then came the ace on 211-yard Par-3 11th hole. Gangjee zoomed to the top with a 63 that took him to a nine-under total and a one-shot lead at the halfway stage at the Higashi Hirono Golf Club. **PTI**

IOC could relook at Russia participation

Doha: IOC president Thomas Bach said that a fresh look might be needed at Russia's participation in next year's Tokyo Olympics after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) found inconsistencies in data supplied by the country. WADA said on Monday it had opened compliance proceedings against Russia's Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) after examining a vast bank of historical testing data finally handed over in January following a previous suspension. That meant RUSADA was in danger of being declared non-compliant by WADA, possibly putting increased pressure on the IOC to exclude Russia from the Tokyo Games next year for failing to ensure that its athletes are clean. "RUSADA has served its sanction for what happened... now, what we hear there maybe a new situation," Bach told reporters. "So, there has to be a fresh look at this." Bach said he could not comment further while WADA carries out its investigation. "I cannot speculate or comment on the result of what this WADA procedure might be," he added. **REUTERS**



Jamuna Boro (54kg) will be India's representative in the non-Olympic category at the women's world boxing championships which begins next week. Praveen Khanna

Peek over the great wall

Indian women boxers gained valuable insight by sparring with the elusive Chinese at a camp in Italy

GAURAV BHATT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

WITH THE upcoming world championships in mind, Chinese women boxers shifted training sessions outside their country for the very first time, opting to take part in a multi-national camp being held in Italy. And a possible look behind the curtains, on how women boxing's biggest powerhouse train, prompted India high-performance director Raffaele Bergamasco to make an impromptu change of plans.

"There were no plans for us to go to Italy. But we only went because an Italian coach who is a friend informed me that the Chinese boxers will be coming in," Bergamasco told The Indian Express, talking about the training camp which was held in Assisi from September 8-22. "This was the first time China were holding a training camp in another country. Even better is the fact that the sparring sessions went well for us, with good performance from the girls. Sarita, Neeraj and Lovlina were very good."

Also present were teams from Korea, France, Finland, Greece and Switzerland. But all eyes were on the Chinese boxers, who rule women's boxing. China is the second-most successful nation at World Championships behind Russia, with 46 medals, including 17 gold. In Delhi last year, Chinese boxers made five out of the ten finals, winning gold in four categories. The performance was predictably stronger at the Asian Championships in April, where the nation medalled in each category; winning six gold, one silver and three bronze.

"China was the only reason we went to Italy," says chief coach Mohammed Ali Qamar. "They didn't just bring the full team,



but they also brought second-stringers there for practice. China dominates women's boxing. Sparring with these talented boxers motivated our girls. Sparring and the bouts are totally different, but you can take pointers from these sessions and use it to make the life tough for your opponents when it counts."

While they started slow, with one gold at

"There were no plans for us to go to Italy. But we only went because an Italian coach who is a friend informed me that the Chinese boxers will be coming in... We have videos from all the sessions, a lot of data which should help us prepare plan and adapt to the way the Chinese box."

RAFFAELE BERGAMASCO
HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR

the inaugural 2001 Championships in Scranton, USA, the Chinese women improved dramatically, acquiring 2 silver and 3 bronze in the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games. For the upcoming World Championships in Ulan-Ude, Russia beginning on 3rd October, they possess a strong contender in each category, including Chang Yuan who was singled out by Mary Kom as a possible rival for the 51kg category.

Lovlina Borgohain, the 69kg contender who got bronze in Delhi, talked about her experience in Assisi. "Everyone had a close eye on the Chinese, seeing how this was their first time training openly in 18 years. So to camp with such champions was a stellar experience," says Lovlina.

"Earlier, we used to just look at them and it would always be in our minds that 'China is very tough. This boxer will be very tough.' So, you'd feel psychologically burdened before taking the ring. How would we do? Will our plans work? It is only after we trained with them that we realise now that 'okay, they are a little better but it is not that big of a difference'. Their stamina, for example, is not different from the Indians. So when you

do sparring like that, it helps a boxer. Inn ko ko aaram se maar sakte hain, itna sochne ka koi zarurat nahi hai (We can beat these boxers easily, there's no need to overthink)."

Wary of surprises

Bergamasco adds that while the acquired data and analysis will be helpful, the Indians should be prepared for any possible surprises. "We have videos from all the sessions, a lot of data which should help us prepare plan and adapt to the way the Chinese box," says Bergamasco. "But you can only get some information from these things. And the Chinese are good at changing their game. Also, we should remember that they were also preparing for the Indians, and eventually who comes out on top depends on the boxers in the ring."

Like the recently-concluded men's event, the women's world championships also won't offer an Olympic berth, with qualifiers for Tokyo to be held next year.

"There are two points to it. Of course we are disappointed because one would want to book an Olympic berth quickly and train," said Bergamasco. "Since this is no qualifier, a boxer can go in and just study the other opponents and get used to them for the events next year. And the biggest point is, if you are a World Championship or any other big event medallist, then the judges look at your name and look at you differently."

Mary Kom (51kg), Neeraj (57kg), Sarita Devi (60kg), Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Saweety Boora (75kg) will represent India in the five Olympic weights, while Manju Rani (48kg), Jamuna Boro (54kg), Manju Bomboriya (64kg), Nandini (81kg) and Kavita Chahal (+81kg) will compete in the non-Olympic categories.

Kashyap seals Korea Open semi-finals spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
INCHEON, SEPTEMBER 27

INDIAN SHUTTTLER Parupalli Kashyap progressed to the men's singles semi-finals of the Korea Open World Tour Super 500 with a straight-game win over former world no 2 Denmark's Jan O Jorgensen here on Friday. In a clinical display, the 33-year-old from Hyderabad, who is the lone Indian left in fray, outsmarted Jorgensen 24-22 21-8 in 37 minutes to make it to his second semifinal of the season. He had reached the last four at the India Open Super 500 tournament.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist will now face world no 1 and two-time world champion Kento Momota of Japan on Saturday. A former World No 6, Kashyap, who was promoted from the qualifying round, had last played Jorgensen five years ago at the Denmark Open. The Indian entered the match with a 2-4 record against Jorgensen, a 2015 World Championship bronze medallist.

In the first game, the duo engaged in short rallies initially and spilt the first 8 points. A couple of backhand error and Kashyap was lagging 5-8. Another miscued shot at the net and a wide smash gave Jorgensen an 11-8 advantage at the break.

After the interval, Kashyap garnered a few quick points to turn the tables on his rival, reaching 14-12. The Dane hit the net thrice and also went long, while Kashyap unleashed two powerful cross court smashes. A precise slice helped Jorgensen break the run of points and then level par when kashyap committed an error.

The duo fought hard, moving from 14-14 to 18-18. A timely video referral gave Kashyap another point but he sent one to the net as it was 19-19. Jorgensen then held the game point opportunity after a precise smash at the backline.

However, a jump smash from the Indian made it 20-20. Kashyap then earned a game point only to give it away. However, the Indian grabbed a second game point opportunity and converted it when his opponent hit the net. He thus sealed the first game which lasted 22 minutes.

The second game started on a similar note with the duo tied 3-3 initially. Kashyap then took control of the net and curbed his errors to reel off five straight points. Jorgensen tried to up the pace but unforced errors pegged him back as kashyap held a 11-7 lead at the breather.

It was mostly one way traffic after the break as Kashyap found the gaps easily even as his rival got buried in a heap of unforced errors. Kashyap grabbed the next nine of the 10 points to move to the match point and then sealed it with a smash.

High Performance Centre

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government on Friday approved the setting up of a Badminton High Performance Centre here, to be built at an cost of Rs 30 crore.

"I am sure the High Performance Centre will be one of the top international standard training centres of our country. The state government has provided three acres of land for the centre," Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said.

With support from Dalmia Bharat Group, the state government is constructing a multi-purpose indoor hall inside the Kalinga Stadium campus, which will be ready by February 2020. "Promotion of sports by industrial houses is a winning combination. My government will always encourage such initiatives for the cause of sports in Odisha," the chief minister said.



GOOD HEADSPACE

High jumper Inika Mcpherson of the United States during a training session at the IAAF World Championships in Doha. Reuters

Sreeshankar finishes 22nd, Jabir advances

Doha: India began its World Athletics Championships campaign on a disappointing note with long jumper M Sreeshankar failing to reach the final after finishing 22nd in the qualification round with a below par effort here on Friday. The 20-year-old Sreeshankar could only produce a best jump of 7.62m from his three attempts in the qualification B. His effort was well below his season's best of 8.00m, which he had produced only last month in Patiala.

MP Jabir gave Indian fans a reason to cheer as he advanced to the semifinals of the men's 400 metre hurdles with a time of 49.62 seconds. He finished third in his heat which was won by 2017 World

Champion Karsten Warholm of Norway. The youngster, who has a personal best and national record of 8.20m, began with a 7.52m before clearing 7.62m. He then fouled his third and final jump to end his campaign in disappointment.

The automatic mark for the finals was set at 8.15m but only one jumper could touch it. The 11 other best performers went through to the finals with the least distance making the cut was 7.89m.

Sreeshankar's 7.62m effort here was his second worst this season. He had 7.53m in the qualifying round of the National Inter-State Championships in Lucknow last month. This season, he has been consistent around 7.80m. **PTI**

Fraser-Pryce's journey: From a violent ghetto to scorching the track

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 27

JAMAICAN SPRINT legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce has already battled her way from abject poverty to a level of relative riches that will allow her to give her son Zyon a more comfortable upbringing than she experienced. Yet the engaging 1.52 metres (5 foot) 32-year-old 'pocket rocket' is not done yet.

The enduring Fraser-Pryce won the first of her two Olympic 100 metre titles in 2008. She has four individual World Athletics Championships golds. In 2013, in Moscow, she became only the third woman to achieve a sprint double and could repeat the historic feat in Doha. Her main rivals for the 100m, which gets underway on Saturday, are likely to be compatriot Elaine Thompson and Briton Dina Asher-Smith. Yet Fraser-Pryce is fortunate even to even be running after missing the 2017 season with a difficult pregnancy.

"Honestly, I think my son kind of put things in perspective, where I can say, 'I'm OK, I have my son, now I've achieved so much, but I still want more'," she told sports and pop culture website *The Undeclared* last year.

Fraser-Pryce may want more from the track but she has plenty going on off it. She owns a hair salon — not a great surprise given her penchant for dyeing her hair exotic colours. She also spends a lot of time talking to youngsters in her community about improving their lives. "If you understand Shelly, she's a behind-the-scenes person," her local priest, Winston Jackson, told Jamaican newspaper *The Gleaner* in 2012. "If she's going to help somebody, she will do it in private. She doesn't like all the excitement."

Her work with children has a personal side after a childhood in a violent ghetto in Kingston — a cousin was shot dead close to the family home — but where she refused to



Shelly-Ann Fraser Pryce, a multiple Olympic and World Championship medallist, will be running in the women's 100 metres heats on Saturday. File

accept her lot was to just survive.

Much of this steeliness was infused into her psyche by her mother, Maxine who brought up Shelly-Ann her two brothers up on her own in the Waterhouse neighbourhood, telling her daughter: 'you have a talent go and use it.'

"I love my community and I love the fact that this is where I'm from and even though sometimes it's challenging to see some of the young people that I grew up with not making it — not doing better for themselves — I want [them] to understand that I embody everything that we are," Fraser-Pryce told *The Undeclared*. "For me, being a part of the community still, knowing that I am who I am now, I think it gives them hope and I want to always have the young people in my community be-

lieve that anything is possible." Fraser-Pryce was at least able to repay part of what she owed her mother with the money that track success brought. In the Fraser household because there was often no money, even for food, if Maxine didn't have a successful day.

"She was strict with us and worked hard as a street vendor to make sure we went to a good school," Fraser-Pryce told the *Daily Telegraph* in 2009.

"It was hard for her. Sometimes, we didn't have enough to eat. I'd go to school with no lunch money and my school would have to provide it. My mom wouldn't let me go outside. Coming back from school, the gang men sometimes would say things but I would walk by, never answer and my mom would go tell them leave me alone."

ACTION ON DAY 2

6:45pm	M	Discus throw Qualifying (Group A)
8:15pm	M	Discus throw Qualifying (Group B)
7:45pm	M	800m (heats 1)
8:00pm	M	Pole vault (Qualification)
8:35pm	M	400m (semis)
9:15pm	M	100m (semis)
9:45pm	W	800m (semis)
9:55pm	W	hammer throw (Final)

INDIA WATCH



Dutee Chand, the world university champion, didn't meet qualifying standards but was extended an invitation by the IAAF.

7:00 pm	100 metres (heats)	DUTEE CHAND
8:00 pm	4x400m mixed relay (heats)	INDIAN TEAM



